

e-Update January 2008

Welcome to the 35th edition of e-Update, the monthly electronic bulletin from the Buckinghamshire ICT Curriculum Support Team.

The purpose of this bulletin is to keep you informed with the latest developments in ICT.

The information in e-Update has been taken from Becta and other information sources. Details on how to subscribe to these can be found at the end of e-Update.

For information on how to subscribe to/ unsubscribe from e-Update, please see the section towards the end of e-Update.

e-Update can also be found on the Buckinghamshire ICT Curriculum Support Team's website at <http://www.bucksict.org.uk/e-update/> and on the Buckinghamshire Grid for Learning website at <http://www.bucksgfl.org.uk/resources/course/view.php?id=126>.

If you have any comments on e-Update, please send them to adickson@buckscc.gov.uk.

Creativity Innovation and e-Learning in ICT Conference and Exhibition

Mike Woods, ICT Adviser

When: On Tuesday 12th February 2008 from 10.30 to 3.30

Where: Civic Centre Aylesbury

Why: Come along and listen to inspirational speakers, discover some of the exciting work being done by Buckinghamshire schools as they develop a creative and Innovative approach to Personalised Learning through the medium of ICT and have a chance to see some of the recent developments in ICT hardware and software from over 40 leading suppliers.

How: *The conference is free for all delegates* and we are also able to offer to each primary school that sends a delegate to this important event, £75 to offset some of their costs. We are providing a free lunch for everyone that attends and a free gift for the first 100 delegates who register on the conference website:

<http://www.consult-ed.co.uk/EML/event.asp?EventID=594>.

What: At **11.00** you will be able to hear our keynote speaker **John Davitt** author of the 'Trust Yourself Toolkit' for schools. John is an inspirational speaker who has worked in education for over twenty years, as a teacher and adviser with the DfES. Now a well-regarded and respected educational consultant, author and journalist he writes for the The Guardian, The Times and TES.

The DfES has stated that all pupils should have access to a VLE (Virtual Learning Environment) by 2008, and in a seminar session from **12.00 Paul Adams** of Buckingham Primary School and colleagues will share their experiences of how they are developing their own VLEs, showing us just how easy it is to start working on this important initiative and also providing some interesting pointers for those of us already at a more advanced stage of development.

Available space at each seminar will be limited so please book early to avoid disappointment.

From **2.00 Steve Holroyd**, Atomwide Customer Service Manager will be demonstrating the new BucksGfL User Support Site and providing a "WebScreen" seminar and training session.

The session will demonstrate the new BucksGfL user support site and will also introduce colleagues to "WebScreen" the latest web filtering system which allows much more control to schools than is possible with the default filtering system.

If you don't already do so, and would like to use "WebScreen" then this is a session not to be missed. Although you can attend just to investigate its potential, this session will also count as the mandatory training session required before your school begin to use the new system.

Please register for the conference online at: <http://www.consult-ed.co.uk/EML/event.asp?EventID=594>

For further information please contact:

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or

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Buckinghamshire's own 'BAFTA' awards?

Mike Woods, ICT Adviser

Well not quite, but the ICT Curriculum Support Team announce the "Just a Minute" Digital Animation and Video Competition. We would like to provide you with advance warning of a competition being launched in the New Year. Individuals and/or teams of pupils from schools will be invited to submit a digital animation or video they make on any topic, but not exceeding one minute in length, to have a chance of winning a trophy and valuable prizes! Entries will be judged in several age groups and the "Just a Minute" awards will be made at the Celebrating Success in E-Learning conference in June.

Further information will be available soon.

Schools Computer Animation Competition

Andy Dickson, ICT Consultant

2008 sees the 60th anniversary of the world's first stored program digital computer, designed and built at the University of Manchester.

As part of the celebrations the University of Manchester is running a Computer Animation Competition for schoolchildren aged from 7 to 19.

To enter the competition, entrants will create a short (up to 1-minute) animated Computer Graphics film using Alice, a free downloadable drag-and-drop computer animation system that requires no knowledge of programming (<http://www.alice.org>).

The film can be about any topic that links to National Curriculum material, and need not be about computing or the 60th anniversary (but could be).

The competition will be open 1 January - 1 April 2008. Full details at

<http://www.cs.manchester.ac.uk/Digital60>

Google for Schools

Google

The Google UK Schools Site offers free resources for teachers to help use Google tools in the classroom.

Working with teachers, we have developed ideas for how Google Search, Maps, Earth, Images and News can be integrated into the curriculum to help bring subjects such as geography, history and citizenship to life.

The site offers:

- Lesson plans and student activity sheets for primary (cross-curricular) and secondary (geography, history and citizenship)
- A discussion group to share ideas on how to use Google in the classroom with other teachers
- A comprehensive guide on how to use Google Earth, including when carrying out fieldwork
- Links to information on how to use Google tools
- Tutorials for students on how to search well
- Useful "gadgets" for teachers that you can add to your Google homepage such as the latest news on education and schools
- Links to other Google projects for schools

URL: <http://www.google.co.uk/schools/>

Becta publishes major report on Microsoft Vista and Office 2007 for schools and colleges

Becta

Becta, the education technology agency, has published a key report on Microsoft Vista and Office 2007 and on document interoperability which analyses the suitability of both software packages for adoption by schools and colleges.

Becta recommends that schools and colleges review the findings of the report before considering any large-scale investment or deployment.

The key recommendations from Becta's report are:

- Upgrading existing ICT systems to Microsoft Vista or Office 2007 is not recommended and mixed Windows-based operating environments should be avoided. However, Vista should be considered where new institution-wide ICT provision is being planned.
- No widespread deployment of Office 2007 should take place until schools and colleges are sure that they have in place mechanisms to deal with interoperability and potential digital divide issues set out in the report.
- To ensure widest compatibility of files between different applications, users of Office 2007 should not save in Microsoft's new Office format (OOXML).
- Due to limitations in Microsoft's implementation of the Open Document Format (ODF) international standard, users should in the short term continue to save files in the more widely adopted .doc, .xls and .ppt formats.
- Pupils, teachers and parents should also be made aware of the wide range of free-to-use products currently available and on how to use and access them.
- The ICT industry should be facilitating easier access to 'free-to-use' office productivity software.

Dr Stephen Lucey, Becta's Executive Director of Strategic Technologies, says:

"Our objective is to make sure schools and colleges get the best possible value for money. Our advice is to be sure there is a strong business case before upgrading to these products as the costs are significant and the benefits remain unclear."

The full report is available at <http://publications.becta.org.uk/download.cfm?resID=35275>

Full press release <http://news.becta.org.uk/display.cfm?resID=35287&page=1658&catID=1633>

All parents to get regular online reports on their children's progress

DCSF

All parents will get regular electronic reports on their children's progress in future – going far beyond the traditional annual school report, Schools Minister Jim Knight announced this week.

Opening BETT 2008, the world's largest educational technology trade show, he said all secondary schools will be expected to have 'real-time' reporting systems up and running by 2010 and all primary schools two years later. Many schools already run these systems.

Real-time reporting means parents will be able to access frequently updated information on children's achievement, progress, attendance, behaviour and special needs wherever, whenever they want – using secure, online systems.

Other systems could include text alert systems, school intranet, email or even video-conferencing.

The Government's schools technology agency, Becta, will be guiding schools to adapt their existing technology and advise them how to improve.

URL: http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2008_0006

Full speech: http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/speeches/search_detail.cfm?ID=742

Becta: http://schools.becta.org.uk/index.php?section=oe&catcode=ss_es_fam_02&rid=14571

Plan to give every child internet access at home

The Guardian

Parents could be required to provide their children with high-speed internet access under plans being drawn up by ministers in partnership with some of the country's leading IT firms.

Jim Knight, the schools minister, said he is in talks with companies such as Microsoft, BT, Sky, Virgin and RM to help close the widening achievement gap between pupils from the richest and poorest families. More than one million children have no access to a computer at home.

Full article: <http://education.guardian.co.uk/schools/story/0,,2235303,00.html>

Interactive Weather Presenting Kit

Geoff Lambrechts, ICT Consultant

A FREE, interactive learning resources for Key Stage 2-4 studies of weather and climate.

This highly interactive programme is designed to consolidate the weather and climate theme throughout Key Stages 2-4, and provides an ideal opportunity for the use of ICT in Geography. Using Microsoft PowerPoint, the package comes with a range of master slides, four weather symbols sets, an image library and links to current weather data.

The package allows students to study current weather data, charts and satellite images via links to the Met Office web site to enable them to create their own weather forecast presentations. Slides to complete include UK, European, world and five-day forecasts. Students can also use their own digital photographs or those from the image library provided, to enhance their presentations.

Whilst designed to meet the requirements of Geography, the package can also be applied to other areas of the curriculum, e.g. English, ICT, Science and Modern Foreign Languages. The package comes complete with teachers' notes, suggested lessons and instructions.

Available from: http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/education/resources/interactive_kit.html

Ictopus

Geoff Lambrechts, ICT Consultant

Ictopus (ICT online primary user support) is a free support service for primary education which was launched on 1st September 2007. Each week registered members of the service have access to a six page printable magazine (Sharing Good Practice) and a set of activity suggestions (lessons2go). There are also frequent news postings and a variety of other resources and projects. All the resources are available from the web archive and members can also opt to receive alerts offering a one-click download service for each item.

Ictopus builds on the highly successful Becta Direct2U service and also the legacy of MAPE (Micros and Primary Education).

Register now to be a part of this exciting venture. Registration is free.

URL: <http://www.ictopus.org.uk>

CyberCafé

Gridclub

http://www.gridclub.com/teachers/t_internet_safety.html

The CyberCafé is an integral part of the Internet Proficiency Scheme developed to help teachers educate children on staying safe on the Internet. The scheme has been developed by Becta, The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP), the Department for Children, Schools and Family (DCSF), the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) and Grid Learning Ltd / GridClub. The resource aims to develop a set of safe and discriminating behaviours for pupils to adopt when using the Internet and other technologies.

Play the Cybercafé game – http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/8_10/cybercafe/cafe/base.aspx

The Internet Proficiency Pack is additionally referenced to the skills, knowledge and understanding as set out in the non statutory framework for PSHE and Citizenship at Key Stage 2.

The Internet Proficiency Teachers' Pack (Key Stage 2) is downloadable from the CEOP – <http://www.ThinkuKnow.co.uk> teachers' area.

Subscribing/ Unsubscribing to e-Update

Teachers in Buckinghamshire schools that are connected to BucksGfL Broadband can receive e-Update by email to their BucksGfL email address.

To subscribe:

1. Visit the BucksGfL website <http://www.bucksgfl.org.uk>.
2. Click on the **Login** link in the top right corner.
3. Login using your BucksGfL username and password (your BucksGfL username is the first part of your BucksGfL email address i.e. the bit before the @. Your password is the same as for your email).
4. In the Course Categories section on the main page, click on **ICT**, then click on **e-Update**.
5. You will be asked if you would like to enrol on the e-Update course. Choose **Yes**.

Once you are enrolled, you will be emailed each edition of e-Update to your BucksGfL email address when they are posted on the BucksGfL website.

Note: If you don't wish to use your BucksGfL email address or don't have one (i.e. your school is not connected to BucksGfL Broadband or you are outside Buckinghamshire) then e-Update will still be available to you. However, you will have to download it from the Buckinghamshire ICT Curriculum Support Team's website at <http://www.bucksict.org.uk/e-update/> or the Buckinghamshire Grid for Learning website at <http://www.bucksgfl.org.uk/resources/course/view.php?id=126>

To unsubscribe:

6. Visit the BucksGfL website <http://www.bucksgfl.org.uk>.
7. Click on the **Login** link in the top right corner.
8. Login using your BucksGfL username and password (your BucksGfL username is the first part of your BucksGfL email address i.e. the bit before the @. Your password is the same as for your email).
9. In the Course Categories section on the main page, click on **ICT**, then click on **e-Update**.
10. On the left, click on the **Unenrol me from e-Update**.

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Becta

To subscribe to the various publications, click here: [Becta Schools Subscription Services](#)

RM

To subscribe to the various RM newsletters, visit the RM website at <http://www.rm.com/Security/Login/FormsLogin.asp> and register. If you are already registered, log in and go to *Email Subscriptions* in *My Account*.

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