

e-Update February 2008

Welcome to the 36th 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.

'Just a Minute' Digital Video Competition

Mike Woods, ICT Adviser

Entry is open to all pupils registered at a Buckinghamshire County School. Entries can be from individuals or from groups of pupils - you can even enter more than once!

You can use any computer software package to produce a digital video of any type e.g. stop frame animation using models or drawings, stick figure animation of the type produced by 'pivot stick animator' or even full motion video using actors and sound - the choice is yours.

Entries must last no longer than **ONE MINUTE** and must be no more than **10mb** in size

We will be judging entries within age groups based around Key Stages and we are looking for entries which, while they may not be technically perfect are creative and entertaining.

Prizes will be awarded both to individual entrants and to the schools they attend.

The final date for entries is **23rd July 2008**.

We will be notifying winners early in the Autumn term and prizes will be awarded at the 'Celebrating Success in E-Learning' conference to be held at the Teaching and Learning Centre in Aylesbury on Wednesday 1st October 2008.

To access the 'Just a Minute' website visit <http://www.bucksgfl.org.uk/resources/course/category.php?id=20> – (the website link is at top of the list). You will then need to log in using your BucksGfL username and password.

PLEASE NOTE Only staff can log in to the website and will need to upload completed videos for pupils.

For further information, or if you have any queries please contact Mike Woods (County Adviser ICT) mawoods@buckscc.gov.uk 0794 123 9537

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>

Know IT All – For Parents

Geoff Lambrechts, ICT Consultant

This is a free resource available from <http://www.childnet-int.org/kia/>

It can be accessed on line or in the form of a CD free to schools and aims to help support children's positive and safe use of the internet. It contains advice for parents about keeping children safe, and has been designed to be easy to use.

Also included are videos to make it more interesting as well as short tutorials for those parents who are new to computers.

This is a really excellent publication (DVD and booklet) aimed at teachers, classroom assistants and parents with even a section for the children to use themselves. It is set out in an easy to understand way, for non-computer literates as well as the experts and there are lots of links to really help you to be safe on the internet.

Information security guidance for schools

Becta

Recent high level security breaches concerning loss of personal and sensitive information have highlighted the need to update security guidance. This guidance should ensure that similar losses are prevented and minimise the risk of data being misused should media or devices fall into the wrong hands.

Data protection legislation means that all those who hold personal data, whether on paper or electronically, must keep that data secure. Clearly, this also applies to schools. Personal data is defined as any combination of data items that identifies an individual and provides specific information about them, their families or circumstances. This includes names, contact details, gender, dates of birth and so on, as well as other sensitive information such as academic achievements, other skills and abilities, and progress in school. It may also include behaviour and attendance records.

Full details: http://schools.becta.org.uk/index.php?section=lv&catcode=ss_lv_saf_dp_03&rid=14734

BBC Learning Zone Clip Library

Geoff Lambrechts, ICT Consultant

The Learning Zone provides rich audio-visual material for use in primary and secondary schools and colleges. These short videos have been selected to match the curriculum; they can be used in many ways, from the stimulation and engagement of students to the delivery of very specific learning points or used as a focus in your VLE. Try searching by subject and topic or by keyword.

URL: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/clips/>

Becta launches next generation learning campaign

Becta

The Next Generation Learning campaign is about using technology well to make learning a more exciting, rewarding and successful experience for people of all ages and abilities. The Next Generation Learning campaign is aimed at parents, learners, teachers and employers. A specially commissioned survey by the polling company Populus shows that 95 per cent of parents think the use of interactive whiteboards and other high tech tools help their children learn at school. Almost 80 per cent of parents questioned on behalf of Becta think technology can bring lessons to life and engage their child in subjects they find difficult, while more than 60 per cent believe the use of computers raises standards. Becta is leading the drive to improve

the use of technology in education via the Next Generation Learning campaign. For more information visit the Next Generation Learning campaign website.

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

ICT Schools Team - Laptop Offer

Karen Wilkinson, ICT Schools Team

The ICT Schools Team are delighted to announce that the special pricing on laptops is back again. If your school needs to purchase some laptops (for teachers or student use) then this fantastic deal offers a discount of up to 40%.

However, this year there are two choices. The newly formed ICT Steering Group (which is still looking for additional primary school volunteers to join) was asked to help agree the specification for this year's offer. As a result, the specification is much improved over last year's offer but the price is lower than in 2007.

Offer 1 Dell Latitude D530

This specification is very similar to last year with a Dell Latitude D530 but the bold text shows the improvements. Intel Core 2 Duo **2.0GHz** (800MHz, 2MB cache), 15" screen (1024 x 768 resolution), **2GB** (2 x 1GB) memory, **80GB 7,200 rpm** fast hard drive, no floppy drive or USB memory stick, **DVD/RW**, Bluetooth, 802.11b/g WiFi, 6 cell 56Whr LI-ION battery, Windows XP Pro, Office **2007** Pro (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, Publisher), Sophos AntiVirus, 4 USB ports, 3 year on-site warranty, 5 button optical scroll mouse, carry case, serial, Firewire and desktop expansion ports for £615. Please note that there is no PS/2 port to connect old keyboards or mice, and no parallel port to connect old printers.

This price is £12 less than last year and now includes twice the memory (2GB instead of 1GB), a larger and faster hard drive (80GB 7,200 rpm instead of 60GB 5,400 rpm) and a DVD writer. We have also installed Office 2007 which has a very different user interface.

Offer 2 Dell Latitude D531

This offer is very similar to offer 1 apart from the following:-

- * It has an AMD Turion 64 X2 Mobile 2.0GHz (1MB cache),
- * 15.4" widescreen (1280 x 800 resolution),
- * 9 cell 85Whr LI-ION battery.
- * It costs £595.

The Differences

The key differences between these offers is that the D531 has a widescreen which means that if it is connected to an Interactive Whiteboard (IWB) you will probably get blank areas down the left and right hand side of the screen unless you have a widescreen IWB! In addition, the D531 has a larger battery and an AMD processor instead of the more common Intel processor, but is marginally cheaper.

Finally, please ask about the special alternative to the D531 which is optimised for use in a "laptop trolley" this will have a second 5 cell 48Whr LI-Polymer battery giving a total of 14 cells to maximise battery life. To keep costs down, the DVD/RW and laptop bag are removed.

For schools with a Microsoft School Agreement including Office Pro, the cost would be reduced by £35. An additional charge of £15 per laptop will apply for schools that have not bought a Sophos site licence.

Orders need to be emailed to ICTSchools@buckscc.gov.uk with a subject of "**Laptop order**" by Friday 29th February 2008 so that we can arrange delivery during March. This offer will be repeated during the summer term with a closing date of Friday 23rd May 2008 - hopefully at the same price. Please confirm the number of laptops, the name of the school, the "code" to be used for the recharge (through the co-ordinated billing system) and whether you have a Sophos site licence. If you have a Microsoft "School Agreement", then please supply your "agreement number". Billing will of course be in the 2008/9 financial year.

If you have any technical queries about the specification of the laptops please contact PC Support, ICT Schools Team on 01494 540202.

ICT Excellence Awards 2008

Becta

Becta has launched the 2008 ICT Excellence Awards to seek out the best and brightest schools that are using technology to help learners achieve.

The ICT Excellence Awards aims to identify and reward those schools throughout the UK who are leading the way in their outstanding and innovative use of ICT, benefiting their whole community both inside and outside the school building. Recognising whole-school best practice, these awards align closely with Becta's self-review framework and the ICT Mark. While rewarding the school as a whole, the awards will also focus on the individuals who are leading change and making an impact across the school.

This year there will be eight national awards in five categories. Winners will receive a cash prize to spend on ICT equipment, provision or training. For primary and secondary schools the categories for each phase are 'Learning experience', 'Beyond the classroom' and 'Leadership, management and collaboration'. The 'Best whole school' award will be judged and awarded regionally, and from those winners one national winner selected. Within this award there are separate categories for early years, primary and secondary settings. The 'Support for schools' category will reward organisations that support schools in their use of ICT.

The final deadline for entries is 30 April 2008. And during June, July and September 2008 the judges will visit each of the schools and organisations that has been shortlisted for an ICT Excellence Award. We'll announce the winners at an awards ceremony in November 2008.

You may also like to know that in April this year Becta is to launch an awards scheme for the FE and skills sector. We'll be publishing more details of this nearer the time.

You can find the entry forms and more about the awards from the ICT Excellence Awards website <http://www.becta.org.uk/excellenceawards>. If you'd like to know more, contact Becta's Awards Team at excellenceawards@becta.org.uk or on 024 7641 6994.

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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RM

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