

e-Update March 2008

Welcome to the 37th 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

BBC Jam and future BBC learning strategy

Andy Dickson, ICT Consultant

The BBC has announced that BBC Jam is to remain suspended and gives details of the future of its learning strategy.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/bbctrust/framework/bbc_service_licences/jam.html

KS3 ICT assessment modelling tasks released - Countdown out now

NAA

The modelling tasks batch of the KS3 ICT assessment tasks and support materials are being released this month.

In support of the release, the latest issue of Countdown, the newsletter of the KS3 ICT onscreen assessment tasks, was sent to schools on 4 March. It contains information about what the tasks comprise, how the data handling tasks are already being used in schools and the timetable for future releases.

To download a copy, click on this link:

www.naa.org.uk/downloads/countdown_spring08.pdf

ICT funding 2008 to 2011

Mike Woods, ICT Adviser

From 2008 ICT funding is to be made available to support schools in delivering the priorities of the Government's Harnessing Technology strategy. However, this is no longer separately identified as ICT grant but is included within funds allocated to schools as part of the Devolved Formula Capital grant, any part of which can also be used to purchase ICT equipment. As with other DFCEG funding, schools should be aware that it should be used within the normal constraints of capital expenditure (e.g. it cannot be used to fund leases or licences). This element of Capital Grant for ICT purchasing replaces previously available separate grants for ICT e.g. Grant 122 e-learning credits (eLCs).

Decisions on how schools spend this funding should be based on local and school-level needs and priorities.

All proposed purchases should benefit learners and the educational process. Schools are advised to make use of the Becta self-review framework to better understand their needs and requirements before making resourcing decisions.

Becta's self-review framework offers schools a route for assessing and improving a school's use of ICT. Based on maturity models, the framework allows them to benchmark against established best practice and helps to create an action plan for improvement. Further information and guidance on the self-review framework can be found on this website <http://schools.becta.org.uk/index.php?section=srf&rid=11966>.

Schools are also advised to follow Becta's guidance on achieving best value. (http://schools.becta.org.uk/index.php?section=re&catcode=ss_res_pro_02).

Depending on local and school priorities and stage of development, technology investment might include:

- the extension of ICT access and ICT-based services.
- systems to achieve better use and integration of information to support learning, including assessment, attendance, behaviour and more regular reporting and updates to parents.
- investment in a range of technologies to support classroom-based learning (for example, interactive whiteboards and related tools, and other technologies like data loggers).

Primary & Secondary Teachers Magazines

Andy Dickson, ICT Consultant

Do you subscribe to these magazines? They are free monthly publications from the Teachernet/DCSF and contain useful information, articles and resources.

To subscribe, go to <http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/teachers/subscribe/>

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.

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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>

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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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