

e-Update April 2008

Welcome to the 38th 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

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 DFCE 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).

The Byron Review is published

BBC

On 6 September 2007, the UK government commissioned a review of the risks children faced from exposure to harmful or inappropriate material on the internet or in video games.

Psychologist Dr Tanya Byron was asked to lead the six-month review and the report detailing the work was published on 27 March.

Recommendations

- Create a UK Council on Child Internet Safety that leads development of a strategy with two core elements:
 - better regulation - in the form of voluntary codes of practice that industry can sign up to.
 - better information and education, where the role of government, law enforcement, schools and children's services will be key.
- The council should investigate how the law around harmful and inappropriate material could be usefully clarified (including suicide websites) and explore appropriate enforcement responses.
- Develop an independently monitored voluntary code of practice on the moderation of user generated content, including making specific commitments on take-down times.
- All computers sold for home use should have kitemarked parental control software and ISPs should offer and advertise this prominently when people sign up.
- The council should ensure search providers agree to make it obvious what level of search is on (e.g. safe or moderate) and give users the option to "lock it" on. Every search engine clearly link to child safety information and safe search settings on the front page of their website.
- A properly funded public information and awareness campaign on child internet safety to change behaviour.
- Sustainable education and children's services initiatives to improve the skills of children and their parents around e-safety.
- Creation of a "one stop shop" for child internet safety within the DirectGov information network, based on extensive research about what different groups of users want.
- 100% of schools should have Acceptable Use Policies that are regularly reviewed, monitored and agreed with parents and students.
- Ofsted take steps to hold schools to account on their performance on e-safety.
- Sustained, high profile and targeted efforts by industry to increase parents' understanding and use of age-ratings and controls on consoles.
- That the statutory requirement to age classify games be extended to include those receiving 12+ ratings.

- Introduce a hybrid classification system with BBFC logos on the front of all games (18,15,12,PG and U). PEGI to rate all 3+ and 7+ games and their equivalent logos (across - all age ranges) will be on the back of all boxes.
- That there should be focused efforts to monitor enforcement of the statutory age ratings at the point of sale.
- The BBFC and PEGI develop a joint approach to rating online games and driving up safety standards for children and young people in the games, under the auspices of the UK Council for Child Internet safety.

Executive summary www.dfes.gov.uk/byronreview/pdfs/Executive%20summary.pdf

Review website www.dfes.gov.uk/byronreview

DCSF press release www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2008_0060

BBC "At a glance" <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/technology/7316700.stm>

BucksGfL Broadband 'Webscreen' Internet Filtering System Published

Mike Woods, ICT Adviser

The requirement to ensure that children and young people are able to use the internet and related communications technologies appropriately and safely is important to us all. The BucksGfL Internet Web Filtering Policy has been developed to help schools ensure the safety of their pupils as they use the Internet, whilst at the same time retaining the flexibility needed for effective teaching and learning. Head teachers will already appreciate that supervision and education of Internet users is as important as the use of any software solution, since the filtering of a school's Internet connection alone cannot guarantee the absolute safety of its pupils and staff. Filtering is, however, a necessary first step to ensure the school has taken all reasonable steps to protect pupils and staff. Historically, Buckinghamshire Grid for Learning has provided two default whole county level filtering policies to its schools. These are the primary and the secondary policies, however in some cases schools have found these policies too restrictive and we have therefore developed with Atomwide a new web filtering system - WebScreen.

WebScreen is a software solution which involves all available websites being scanned automatically for content. The sites are then classified into categories based on their content. These categories are then either allowed through for school use or blocked if they are deemed inappropriate, depending on the policy being applied.

Head teachers may now elect to make use of the WebScreen School-level filtering option available through the new BucksGfL Support Site: <http://support.bucksgfl.org.uk>. Through this site, authorised users can create and apply policies at school level which allow access to categories of websites, or specific website addresses (URLs), that are not considered suitable to be allowed under the whole county level filtering policies but may have educational merit in certain circumstances (although some categories such as adult content will continue to be blocked at a whole county level).

N.B. Head teachers choosing to take up this option should realise that the risks of exposure to inappropriate content by pupils, or abuse of the schools network, are higher when pupils are permitted to access sites which would not be permitted under the county level filtering policies. As a result, schools implementing these options will need to ensure that correspondingly high levels of pupil supervision are used when and where the Internet is being accessed.

Ultimately the headteacher, in conjunction with the governing body, is responsible for internet safety.

If a school chooses NOT to use the WebScreen system, the default county wide policies will continue to be applied. However, if a school wishes to take up the option to use WebScreen a nominated member of staff will be required to undergo a short twilight training session (at no cost to the school) to ensure that the filtering system is clearly understood and the implications and potential impact of any change to local school settings are recognised. The Head teacher is then requested to complete the Filtering Manager nomination form found on BucksGfL on the Broadband Project page:

<http://www.bucksgfl.org.uk/resources/course/view.php?id=49> and fax it to Atomwide.

The next training session will take place at the **Teaching and Learning Centre**, Ellen Road, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire. HP21 8EF on **Wednesday 21st of May from 4.00pm to 6.00pm**.

If you wish to book a place, please contact the ICT Curriculum Support Team on 01296 334994 or email Mike Woods mawoods@bucksgfl.org.uk as soon as possible as places are limited.

Keeping up to date with Regional Broadband activities

Geoff Lambrechts, ICT Consultant

Why not have another look at the BucksGfL web site, <http://www.bucksgfl.org.uk>, which has been altered a little, ICT and Broadband are now easily accessible from the front page.

You will find a link on the front page to the National Education Network (NEN), why not dive into some of the Regional Broadbands to explore for some more new materials.

Google UK Schools

Geoff Lambrechts, ICT Consultant

Why not have a look at Google UK Schools: <http://www.google.co.uk/schools/>

The site offers:

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

There are 8 lesson plans covering different elements of the curriculum for students aged 7-11. They hope that these will stimulate ideas that you can adapt, expand and apply to other curriculum topics. The full lesson plans are available to download in both pdf and word formats.

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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