

e-Update July 2008

Welcome to the 41st 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.

Note: There will be no e-Update published in August.

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

Ideas wanted for ePortfolio Pilot projects

Ian Usher, e-Learning Co-ordinator

Well the summer is nearly upon us and there's just time to let you know about some exciting tools which will be available next year. These tools are our commitment to enabling every pupil to have an *ePortfolio* - an online area accessible from home, school, or anywhere online - to store, develop and share work related to what they're doing at school. This tool complements your VLE but doesn't replace it - it's a more personal

area for pupils (and staff) to create a portfolio of work - which could be school-based, hobby-based, CPD-based, almost anything.

We're planning on piloting the primary and secondary ePortfolio tools in the Autumn term - and we're looking for ideas about projects to use these tools to support. Many *many* people have asked about ePortfolios, from both primary and secondary, so this is your chance to take part...

What you need to do (after logging into the BucksGfL website and going to the Moodle Users support area <http://www.bucksgfl.org.uk/moodlehelp>):

1. First of all, read the [ePortfolio Pilot Details](#) web page which gives an overview of ePortfolios and details of the two tools we are planning on offering.
2. If have an idea for the project, then please fill in the [ePortfolio Pilot Participation Form](#) with details of the sort of project you'd like to do. It won't be first come first served - we're looking for a range of projects to explore how ePortfolios can be used effectively, so that when they're available to everyone across the County we'll have ironed out any small creases which might have occurred. Please give as many ideas and as much information as you can, this will help us to ensure we have a representative spread of projects.
3. If you've any further queries please ask them in the [ePortfolio Questions](#) forum - thanks!

This looks like it's going to be an exciting development which will allow pupils to be very creative in a safe environment, so please get involved if you'd like to!

Moodle Course Sharing

Geoff Lambrechts, ICT Consultant

We would like to encourage schools to keep an eye on the glossary of courses section of the BucksGfL web site, <http://www.bucksgfl.org.uk/moodlehelp> (section 5) as following our sharing and collaboration policy, new courses are being added for you to download and use.

A big thank you to all schools who have shared courses to date.

Any school that has courses they would like to share with others, please email us with the details, and we will download them for sharing on your behalf.

Government says technology in learning is no longer optional

DCSF, DIUS and Becta launch Harnessing Technology: Next Generation Learning strategy.

Becta

Learners of all ages need the chance to use technology to support their learning said Jim Knight MP, Department for Children, Schools and Families, as he launched the revised Harnessing Technology Strategy today.

Harnessing Technology 2008 was launched to senior leaders in education and skills at the ICT for Education conference in Birmingham following an extensive consultation with education and skills professionals.

Becta, the government body for technology in learning, was tasked with updating the strategy on behalf of the Department for Children Schools and Families, and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

The revised strategy sets out a commitment to ensuring every school, college, university or training provider is 'technology confident', placing particular emphasis on achieving this through engagement with learners and parents and the professional development of teachers and trainers. Becta is now tasked with leading and working with education and skills providers, Government and national partners to ensure this ambitious strategy is delivered by 2014.

Jim Knight, Schools Minister, said:

"We are already one of the leading countries in the world for the use of technology in learning. But the pace of development in technology has been staggering over the last three years – in how it is used by young people, schools, communities and businesses.

"Becta's Harnessing Technology: Next Generation Learning Strategy published today reflects our huge ambitions for the country. We want every educational institution to harness technology's potential, every

teacher and student to use it confidently. Children and young people must have access to high-quality technology to enhance their studies – be it at home or in school."

Since the strategy for using technology in learning was first published by DfES in 2005, there have been significant developments in both the technology and education sectors. Over 85% of households with families now have access to broadband, compared with only 8% of households five years ago. Three quarters of 11- to 16-year-olds use social networking sites and 90% use MSN or email.

About Harnessing Technology: Next Generation Learning

This new cross-sector strategy aims to ensure technology supports improvements to services across the education and skills sector, but the strategy also identifies five particular areas for development:

- Promote a clear learner entitlement working in particular to enable disadvantaged learners to use technology effectively, safely and purposefully
- Put in place universal access to powerful learning tools, content and support for family and informal learning
- Help to secure better teaching by exploiting the benefits of technology to provide professional tools and support for teaching
- Develop a system-wide national digital infrastructure that supports personal ownership and environmental sustainability
- Mobilising leadership at all levels of the system through nationally recognised, innovative technology leadership networks.

Harnessing Technology: Next Generation Learning Strategy - summary (PDF)
<http://publications.becta.org.uk/download.cfm?resID=37346>

Full document <http://publications.becta.org.uk/download.cfm?resID=37348>

Full press release Press release
<http://news.becta.org.uk/display.cfm?resID=37361&page=1658&catID=1633>

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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