

e-Update October 2008

Welcome to the 43rd 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.

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 6) 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.

Jaguar Cars Maths in Motion Challenge 2008/9 in Buckinghamshire

Andy Dickson, ICT Consultant

The Jaguar Cars Maths in Motion Challenge has now become well established in the calendars of many schools across the UK as a way of engaging children of all ages in an exciting and motivating mathematics based project that is suitable for all ages from 10 upwards.

The Challenge is based on Cambridgeshire Software House's 'Cars Maths in Motion' software and is sponsored by Jaguar, the Specialist Schools Trust, Cambridgeshire Software House, iDesk, Quizdom, Rapid, Alta, Swallow Systems, Rewards4Schools and Wildern School.

The Challenge involves students, aged 10 to 16, working together in small teams to try and set up a race between virtual Grand Prix cars using tried and tested motor racing simulation software. The work needed to do this can be undertaken in a series of maths lessons or as part of a maths club activity - it's up to you! Both boys and girls will become involved in the delights of long division, long multiplication, percentages, scale, the measuring of angles with protractors, ratio and a whole lot more besides. A full list of what is covered can be found on the Challenge website <http://www.mathschallenge.org.uk>.

The aim of the Challenge is to help raise standards of achievement in mathematics in all schools and to demonstrate that mathematics is not only a useful skill to have but one that can be fun and stand students in good stead throughout life.

The 2008/09 Challenge is open to any school in either the State or Independent sectors. There are three age ranges in the 2008/09 Challenge:

Age Range 1: Any child of Primary School age.

Age Range 2: Any child in years 7, 8 and 9.

Age Range 3: Any child in years 10 and 11.

The Challenge is run through a national network of Lead Centres. The ICT Curriculum Support Team is the Lead Centre for Buckinghamshire Schools.

Each participating school, whether Primary or Secondary, will run a series of internal races to find its own winner who will take part in a Buckinghamshire knockout round in March 2009. Schools that make it through the knockout round will meet in April 2009 for the Buckinghamshire Final. The Buckinghamshire primary, KS3 and KS4 winners will then race with other LAA winners in the national semi-final knockout round to determine which schools are invited to take part in the National Final in June 2009.

A leaflet with information on the Maths Challenge including pricing and an order form for the Cars: Maths in Motion software is available here:

<http://www.bucksict.org.uk/Teacher%20Resources/CarsMIM.htm>

<http://www.bucksgfl.org.uk/resources/course/view.php?id=127>

Any Buckinghamshire schools who would like to be involved in the Maths Challenge should contact Andy Dickson, tel. 01296 334994, email adickson@buckscc.gov.uk.

Internet Safety

Geoff Lambrechts, ICT Consultant

Schools might like to pass this message onto parents as advice from CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre) in relation to children's on-line activity:

Top tips for parents:

- Talk to your child about what they are doing online and visit <http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>. Ask your child to show you around the age-appropriate related sites; 5-7s (Hector's World), 8-10 (Cybercafé) or watch one of the films on the 11-16's site.
- Make sure your children understand they should keep online friends online. If they want to meet someone in the real world, make sure they take you, or another trusted adult, with them.
- Encourage your child to only chat to and webcam with people they know in the real world and that they understand why they need to protect personal information.
- Know how to report to the CEOP Centre if you are concerned about someone's online behaviour towards your child. Parents and children can both report at www.ceop.gov.uk or <http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>.

Becta News

Becta

Home Access project announced

The Prime Minister has announced top line details of the Home Access project which will provide computers and broadband internet access to families so that children can enhance their learning at home.

http://schools.becta.org.uk/index.php?section=oe&catcode=ss_es_hom_02

Becta report shows benefits of Web 2.0 in the classroom

Major new research into the use of Web 2.0 technologies, such as wikis, blogs and social networking, shows that young learners are prolific users of these technologies in their leisure time, but the use of Web 2.0 in the classroom is still limited.

http://schools.becta.org.uk/index.php?section=tl&catcode=ss_tl_dig_02&rid=15903

Parents want schools to text about their child's progress

A survey shows that parents are more informed about their bank balance than how their child is doing at school and over two-thirds of parents would like schools to use technologies such as text messaging and the internet to communicate with them more frequently.

http://schools.becta.org.uk/index.php?section=oe&catcode=ss_es_fam_onrep_03&rid=15691

Becta welcomes UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS)

A new UK Council will help to improve regulation and education around internet use.

http://schools.becta.org.uk/index.php?section=lv&catcode=ss_lv_com_02&rid=15915

Data security handling advice

Four new guidance documents are now available.

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

Buckinghamshire e-Learning Conference

Geoff Lambrechts, ICT Consultant

Teachers who attended the E-Learning Conference at the Teaching & Learning Centre on the 1st October 2008, and those who were unable to attend, may like to view the recording by clicking on the following URL: <http://breeze.bucksgfl.org.uk/p64661719/>.

Before starting it is important to select the Text Archive on the left at the bottom of the screen, and only select the presentations from the archive to view the recorded presentations. Do not select the Welcome! [1:02:58] as this shows a map and will stop their system working.

Ictopus – Sharing Good Practice Magazine

Ictopus

Teachers are encouraged to download the Sharing Good Practice magazine, created by Teaching practitioners for teachers to contribute to and use.

The magazine can be downloaded from <http://www.ictopus.org.uk/>
Log-in first then go to Sharing Good Practice under the Resources tab.

This week's version 11/10/08 - SGP44 has an interesting focus on wikis with a scene setting piece by Jim Merrett followed by an introduction to their own 21st Century Glossary. Next, Linda Hartley re-visits her article in last year's SGP8 and tells us about the steadily growing uptake of the use of blogs and wikis for professional development. Also this week they have a wiki as WOTW.

inspirED

Futurelab

inspirED is a collection of news and stories to inspire anyone interested in innovative approaches to teaching and learning. This site is updated three times a year (next update: January 2009) - you can subscribe on the website for e-mail reminders.

News

News stories covered in this issue include: Becta's latest report on Web 2.0, the School of Everything, business enterprise at Writhlington School, Professor Guy Claxton's book 'What's The Point Of School?' and Channel 4 Education's social networking initiatives.

Cool stuff

A report from SIGGRAPH 2008, a review of the ASUS Eee PC, and a round-up of tools including Scratch, Heekya and Photosynth.

The dust settles...

Following up on initiatives that have come out of the Children's Plan - Parents As Partners In Early Learning, the Youth Task Force and the National Play Strategy.

Video

A video about ShoutBox - a prototype tool to support informal learning, developed by Mobile Pie in partnership with Futurelab.

Go to <http://inspired.futurelab.org.uk>

Pupils to get free home computers

BBC

The first 20,000 youngsters to benefit from plans to ensure all of England's school-age children have computer access at home have been earmarked.

The £300m scheme will be piloted among pupils from low-income families in Suffolk and in Oldham from February.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/7681654.stm>
http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2008_0234

Schools Radio Network

Schoolsradio.com

Schools are invited to register now with the Schools Radio Network - a new initiative that gives their students a national voice. SchoolsRadio.com encourages students up to age 18 to create and share their own audio programmes with other UK schools through a specially regulated networking site.

Supporting many aspects of the National Curriculum, the network helps develop creativity, confidence and teamwork, improving literacy, speech and technical skills and at the same time stimulating dialogue between passionate young people.

Launched last year with Ministerial support, the Schools Radio Network provides a level playing field for children of all ages and abilities to get their voices heard as they explore the powerful and popular medium of radio. Registration is free until 28 November.

Why not register with Schoolsradio.com

<http://www.schoolsradio.com>

uLearn

Infomapper

uLearn is an extremely powerful online tool serving not only Geography, but each curriculum area. Much of uLearn is free.

The next enhancements to uLearn, which will be released before the end of October, include some remarkable additions:

- A tool to add a map and aerial image of each school's location on their open school website – without charge
- Tools to allow the direct annotation of maps with text in 'call-outs'
- Drag and drop map icons (including OS symbols)
- Simplification of uLearn's 'resource linking' tools
- 4 figure and 6 figure OS Grid Reference tools
- The inclusion of enhanced 'Tag based searches' allowing the automatic display of location-specific learning resources, drawn from the internet as 'web services'. This will enable the creation of almost instant lesson materials.

A newsletter with further details can be found at:

http://ulearn.webbased.co.uk/Bucks_uLearn_Newsletter_Autumn08.pdf

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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Subscription Details**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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