

## e-Update May 2009

Welcome to the 50th 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.

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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](mailto:adickson@buckscc.gov.uk).

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### **Sherston Channels – Free Trial**

#### **Andy Dickson, ICT Consultant**

The ICT Curriculum Support Team has arranged for a free trial of the Sherston Online Channels for half a term for Buckinghamshire LA schools. The two channels are Gogglebox and Crystal ICT. BLi Education, who own Sherston, describe these:

- *Gogglebox: structured, topic-based content with top quality video footage. Unique Interact section for whole class use and inbuilt pupil ePortfolio.*
- *Crystal ICT: high quality, curriculum mapped content covering key areas of ICT in a stimulating rainforest context. Subscription includes comprehensive classroom guide full of teaching ideas.*
- *Easy to use, no training required.*
- *Ideal for interactive whiteboards.*
- *Will work with your Learning Platform.*
- *Flexible pricing plans to suit your school size.*
- *Full access for all pupils at home is included at no extra charge.*

If you would like a free trial for the second half of the summer term, then email Matt Williams [m.williams@taglearning.com](mailto:m.williams@taglearning.com) **using a school email address**, expressing an interest in the free trial.

### **Film Club for schools**

#### **David Little, ICT Co-ordinator, The Disraeli School**

Calling all movie buffs!

Ever thought of having your own cinema in your own classroom? Well now you can! Visit <http://www.filmclub.org> and you will be able to register your school and have access to thousands of great movies. The best part is it's free!

All it takes is a room with a data projector DVD player or PC that plays DVDs, decent speakers, blinds, a group of children and a member of staff with a love of movies.

Once registered you will be able order films through the film club website and they will be sent to you through Lovefilm. They will even provide the licence for you to watch movies!

Visit <http://www.filmclub.org> or contact David Liddle at The Disraeli School for more information.

## **Jaguar Cars Maths in Motion – Buckinghamshire and National Finals**

**Andy Dickson, ICT Consultant**

The Final for Buckinghamshire Schools for the Jaguar Cars Maths in Motion Challenge 2008/9 took place on Thursday 30th April at Turnfurlong Junior School.

Six Primary Teams and four KS3 Teams took part. It was a great afternoon with all of the children using their mathematical skills and working hard in preparing their cars for the race. All of the children had fun and the race at the end of the afternoon was very exciting.

The Primary and overall winner was Butlers Court. The KS3 winner was The Buckingham School. Congratulations to both schools.

Further details can be found on the BucksGfL website <http://www.bucksgfl.org.uk/course/view.php?id=127>.

Congratulations also go to Woodside Junior who are through to the National Final in June following their win in the national Christmas fun race.

## **Jaguar Cars Maths in Motion Challenge 2009/10 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, Cambridgeshire Software House, iDesk, Quizdom, Rapid, Alta, Rewards4Schools, Stemnet 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.co.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 2009/10 Challenge is open to any school in either the State or Independent sectors. There are three age ranges in the 2009/10 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 2010. Schools that make it through the knockout round will meet in April 2010 for the Buckinghamshire Final. The Buckinghamshire primary, KS3 and KS4 winners will then race with other LA winners in the national semi-final knockout round to determine which schools are invited to take part in the National Final in June 2010.

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](mailto:adickson@buckscc.gov.uk)

## **Cars: Maths in Motion training for schools**

**Andy Dickson, ICT Consultant**

**Where:** The Buckinghamshire Teaching & Learning Centre

**When:** 25<sup>th</sup> September 2009, 9.30am-12.30pm (registration and coffee from 9.15am)

**Session Leaders:** Brian & Wendy Richardson. Brian & Wendy are partners in Cambridgeshire Software House and Brian is the co-creator of the Cars: Maths in Motion software.

**Who Should Attend:** Schools who have purchased or will be purchasing the latest version of Cars: Maths in Motion and are participating in the Jaguar Cars Maths in Motion Challenge 2009/10.

**What You Can Expect:** This hands-on course will show teachers how to use the Cars: Maths in Motion software. There will be discussions on how to use this with children and how the Jaguar Cars Maths in Motion Challenge works.

**Note:** The course is **free of charge** to Buckinghamshire LA schools providing that they submit an entry into the Jaguar Cars Maths in Motion Challenge 2009/10. **Schools that do not submit an entry will be subsequently charged for the course at the standard LA rate.**

**How to apply:** Please complete an application form, which is available from Karen Fagan, ICT Curriculum Support Team, Teaching & Learning Centre, Ellen Road, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP21 8EF. If you have any queries, please telephone 01296 334994 or email [kafagan@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:kafagan@buckscc.gov.uk).

## **Courses for your School's VLE**

**Pat Trowbridge, ICT Consultant**

Check out the courses and the recent additions to the shared courses section in the Moodle Help Area <http://www.bucksqfl.org.uk/moodlehelp>. See Section 5 for an excellent range of pre-prepared courses for your school's VLE contributed by our Buckinghamshire teachers.

Please contribute your own VLE courses to the Moodle shared area for other schools to use!

## **Ictopus – May's Lessons2go**

### **Ictopus**

Ictopus (ICT online primary user support) is a support service for primary education. Anyone can sign up for the service (free of charge) and will then receive each week a six page printable magazine and a set of activity suggestions. There will also be a regular newsletter or e-bulletin. These resources (and more) will be archived on the ictopus website <http://www.ictopus.org.uk> where there will also be access to classroom activities and a variety of other resources and projects. Ictopus builds on the Becta Direct2U service and also the legacy of MAPE (Micros and Primary Education).

Login first, then access the activities via Resources and lessons2go.

*Available on 29th April 2009*

Here are the next Lessons2go. The lesson for children aged 3-5 thinks about using ICT to increase the effectiveness of displays. These ideas could be used in other year groups and for displays in shared areas. The maths activity is a colourful graphing task. Pentatonic scales is the theme for the music lesson.

This week they have activities for the following age groups:

- Age 3 to 5: Early Years, Talking Labels  
This is an adaptable activity which makes use of devices which can record a word or phrase onto them. Devices can be selected which will allow the inclusion of an image, or can simply be a means of recording and playing the spoken words. In this activity the devices are used to make reinforcement of vocabulary easier when they are linked to a display. This example relates to the weather, but the concept has many applications.
- Age 6 to 7: Maths, Graph Drawing  
This lesson is about teaching children how to represent data in the form of count graphs. The activity provides a dynamic display with the creation of bold, colourful graphs without having to pick up a

crayon! The activity uses a set of images of cartoon dogs (provided) and a downloadable graph drawing program. These files are zipped for your convenience.

- Age 8 to 9: Music, Pentatonic Scales  
This activity makes use of a range of ICT resources to provide an introduction to pentatonic scales. It is supported by a resource on the Teacher Resource Exchange.

*Available on 6th May 2009*

The next batch of lessons2go is now available. The science lesson makes use of the excellent Science Clips activities from the BBC. The new citizenship lesson about the RSPCA also helps with the concept of a simulation in ICT. In the English lesson the children begin to realise that traditional stories can have different versions.

Next week's lessons will be made up of the supporting material for 'Relax and be Entertained', the joint project between ictopus and Event Elephant. Go to the ictopus home page and click to see the flyer for this fun activity for older pupils. If you have not already signed up using the 'contact us' link, do so as quickly as you can. Amongst the prizes at the end of the project there will be prizes for the 20 schools who were the first to sign up.

This week they have activities for the following age groups:

- Age 5 to 6: Science, Pushes and Pulls  
After a practical introduction to pushes and pulls, the BBC Science Clips website is used by the teacher to demonstrate what happens when the strength of pushes or pulls is changed. Children then use the website in groups to reinforce their understanding.
- Age 7 to 8: Citizenship, About the RSPCA  
This activity uses resources from the RSPCA website to introduce the history and work of the RSPCA. This then leads on to an activity which involves asking questions and making decisions. This is a simulation of finding a dog a good home.
- Age 9 to 10: English, Different versions of traditional stories  
Children will examine different versions of a traditional story, identify similarities and differences and write their own version.

*Available on 13th May 2009*

This week sees the launch of Relax and be Entertained. You may have noticed that this event has been advertised on the ictopus website recently. This is a summer term project whereby children aged 9 to 11 (or perhaps even aged 8-9 with a little more help) put on a summer concert for their parents. The production can be staged at any time during the summer term and we will provide whatever additional support we can. Just e-mail us at [contact@ictopus.org.uk](mailto:contact@ictopus.org.uk).

The key factor in this project is that you must be prepared to hand over the complete project to the children just acting as an adviser whenever they need a bit of help hence the reason that some of the accompanying activity sheets are written with pupils rather than teachers in mind.

There are several downloads and support materials available this week. These are filed under 'Relax and be Entertained' and ages 10-11.

- Overview  
This outlines the project and gives the pupils some ideas as to what they might like to include in their 'concert' programme. It includes a 10 minute mini-drama and the script for this is also attached.
- Getting Ready  
This outlines some ideas as to what else the pupils might like to include on the morning or afternoon of the production; it particularly focuses on how they might use IT to support this.
- EE Website  
This document explains how to use the Event Elephant software that the pupils will use to publicise and administer the event. Whereas the use of the software is not complex, it is the one aspect of the project where pupils might want to work alongside the teacher. Basically it is possible to have the website complete within 30 minutes if all the information is gathered together beforehand.
- Event Elephant Leaflet  
This flyer may be helpful to show others as a summary of the activity.

- Pirate Drama  
This script can be adapted as required.
- Pirate Images  
The Pictopus Gallery also has some images that could be used to illustrate the publicity or even used to project a backdrop for the drama. Look in the pirates folder, search for 'pirate' or 'sea' to see if any of the pictures can be used.

What we hope you will do is to give the pupils a chance to participate in this project (it is all free of any charges). Print out the materials plus the script for the mini-drama, read them through so that you have a feel for what the pupils will be expected to do. Hand over the activity sheets to the class and then sit back, Relax and be Entertained

- a) We would also like you to register if you are intending to participate. This information will not be passed on to anyone but will enable us to send the pupils useful hints and tips as the term progresses. To register simply send your contact name, school (and location) plus the year of the class participating to [contact@ictopus.org.uk](mailto:contact@ictopus.org.uk)
- b) The Event Elephant site does have the facility for parents etc. to buy tickets on-line. You are welcome to use this aspect but we are suggesting that, at this stage, if you want to raise money for the school, or a charity, that you do it 'on the door' through a collection tin. However this facility is worth bearing in mind should you use Event Elephant for future 'events' that you school might organise.
- c) The Event Elephant software is able to e-mail all parents etc with the URL of the event website that the pupils will have created. However, if you don't have access to a list of their e-mail addresses, then simply send a note home with the URL of the website on it.

*Available on 20th May 2009*

The next batch of lessons2go is now available. They all have links with the theme of 'lines'. In PE there is a brand new lesson where children are working on constructing a sequence of movements. In maths the numbers need to be in a straight line to succeed in this activity. Finally, in geography the children are looking at the vocabulary of the coastline. We hope you find these activities useful.

Please do point teachers of children aged 9 to 11 in your establishment to last week's supporting material for 'Relax and be Entertained', the joint project between ictopus and Event Elephant. Go to the ictopus home page and click to see the flyer for this fun activity for older pupils. If nobody from your school has signed up using the 'contact us' link, please encourage them to do so.

This week they have activities for the following age groups:

- Age 5 to 6: PE, Simple Gymnastic Sequences  
This activity makes use of a drag and drop flash activity to demonstrate how three movements can be used to create a sequence. Sound is included on the drag and drop activity so that the words can be easily read.
- Age 7 to 8: Maths, Let's make a straight line  
This lesson is about multiplication, factors and multiples. It is based around a number grid that displays multiples of a given number. This lesson uses the Number Grid program from the DCFS Standards site.
- Age 9 to 10: Geography, Coasts vocabulary  
This activity gives the children an opportunity to use the vocabulary on natural features that they have learnt in their work on coasts. They revise the vocabulary (a word mat is provided) and then use their knowledge to complete a partly constructed hyperlinked document on coasts. This is provided in two forms; one without headings and one with headings.

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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**.

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**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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