

e-Update September 2009

Welcome to the 53rd 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@bucksc.gov.uk.

Free VLE training

Andy Dickson, ICT Consultant

This is just a reminder to Buckinghamshire LA schools who are on BucksGfL Broadband and using the LA provided Moodle installation that you can have free training in school for teachers on using the VLE. To arrange training, please contact your school's link ICT consultant – Pat Trowbridge, Andy Dickson or Geoff Lambrechts. If you are unsure who your link ICT consultant is, please contact Karen Fagan kafagan@bucksc.gov.uk.

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

Discounted Software

Andy Dickson, ICT Consultant

The ICT Curriculum Support Team has partnership agreements with the BLi Group (TAG, SEMERC, Sherston, Busy Brains and Economatics), 2Simple Software, Softease and Crick Software.

Software from the companies above can be purchased through the ICT Curriculum Support at an amazing **20% discount!!**

The ICT Curriculum Support Team can only supply software to Buckinghamshire LA schools.

To find out the products available and the prices **before** discount, please visit the websites:

BLi Group <http://www.blieducation.com>

SEMERC <http://www.semERC.com>

Busy Brains <http://www.busybrains.com>

2Simple <http://www.2simpleshop.com>

Economatics <http://www.economatics-education.co.uk>

TAG <http://www.taglearning.com>

Sherston <http://www.sherston.com>

Softease <http://www.softease.com>

Crick <http://www.cricksoft.com/uk>

To order software from these companies, please contact Karen Fagan on 01296 334994.

BucksGfL Learning Portal (BLP)

Mike Woods, ICT Adviser

Welcome back to a new school year. This promises to be an exciting year for ICT developments in Buckinghamshire and I would like to take this opportunity to highlight just a few of them.

A detailed project update of the progress to date of BucksGfL Learning Portal (BLP) was recently posted in 'Schools' Bulletin' and was included in full within the July version of 'e-Update'. If you are new to Bucks or you have missed the Schools' Bulletin, then it is worth reading the full project update. However, the following is a brief summary of the benefits and services available through the portal.

BLP complies with the DCSF "Online Reporting" requirements and enables:

- Teachers to use the site to update a range of data such as attendance marks, test scores or homework marks and write reports via the web (even from home), and pupils to view information such as homework diaries, test scores, school announcement information or personalised timetables.
- Parents to access information such as the attendance records, assessment scores, reports and homework diaries for their children.

In addition, BLP has been developed to provide a wide range of services. These include:

- Texting to Parents: Use of the latest technology to allow text messages to be sent FREE to school staff and parents, allowing a school to send an SMS message to any registered mobile phone.
- Use of a county wide Exchange Server: This enables schools to have 'school based' email addresses for staff and access to common calendars, allowing scheduling of meetings etc.
- Integration with the BucksGfL 'Moodle' VLE.
- Access to a range of e-portfolio tools, including 'Web 2.0' applications such as 'Honeycomb' tailored for both primary and secondary pupils (and staff) together with an on-line storage space for pupils' work.
- High Security for BLP staff log-ins: Due to recent guidance on data security produced by BECTA we

have arranged for the provision of 'One Time Password' tokens to be made available to schools in the BLP pilot. These are physical devices given to each member of staff and offer '2nd factor authentication' (a unique and changing pin number) in addition to the normal username and password for staff users logging in to the portal site.

We are also part of the DCSF 'Gateway to Educational Services' project, which is planned to integrate with BLP, and will allow access for parents to a wide range of other services such as 'Online School Admissions' and 'Online applications for free school meals'.

For many schools these 'extra' features will be at least as important, if not more so, than "Online Reporting" (which is provided through the integration into BLP of SIMS Learning Gateway), especially since many of them will be useful in learning and teaching in the classroom.

Although users will be able to log in to BLP using their normal BucksGfL username and password, to allow a school to fully engage with BLP (and use services such as 'Texting to parents') an extra program - 'AutoUpdate' developed by Atomwide - will need to be installed on each school's SIMS server. This is required as BLP will need access to some information (such as parents' mobile phone numbers) which only resides within each school and 'AutoUpdate' will provide a way for the central BLP system to use such data.

Installation and configuration of 'AutoUpdate' is something that our engineers will perform but your network support team may also need to be involved, although for most primary schools that buy support from the IT Schools' team (BEMIST), this job will be done for them.

Access to BLP resources (including all training) is FREE to all BucksGfL schools.

I am aware that at this point in time that some schools may not feel it appropriate for them to allow access by parents to their children's attendance records, assessment scores etc (via SIMS Learning Gateway) but would still like access to the wider range of BLP resources. To this end we are making two options available: Option 1 to include SIMS Learning Gateway, and Option 2 without SIMS Learning Gateway at this time.

There is likely to be great demand for access to BLP and I would urge you to return the form as soon as possible to allow us to schedule installations and training.

If you would like any further information about the BLP project please do not hesitate to contact me on 0794 123 9537 or email: mawoods@buckscc.gov.uk.

Briefing Session for New ICT Co-ordinators / Staff with Responsibility for ICT

Mike Woods, ICT Adviser

I am delighted to invite all ICT Co-ordinators / Staff with Responsibility for ICT who have been appointed in the last 12 months, to a briefing session being held at Chartridge Conference Centre on Friday 13th November 2009. This meeting will begin with lunch at 12.30pm, will finish by approximately 3.30pm and will cover topics such as:

- The role of staff with responsibility for ICT
- Bucks Grid for Learning (BucksGfL)
- Support for ICT in Buckinghamshire schools
- Funding issues
- BucksGfL VLE (Virtual Learning Environment) and BLP (Bucks Learning Portal)
- Recent DCSF initiatives such as "Real Time Reporting" requirements

It will also give colleagues a chance to meet the ICT Curriculum Support Team and discuss ICT issues of common concern within schools. The briefing session, including lunch, is free (please see note below) and we would request that those wishing to attend book their place by contacting Karen Fagan at the Teaching and Learning Centre as soon as possible. A confirmation letter, along with directions to the venue, will be then be sent to you.

This briefing session has proved extremely popular in the past, therefore if you book a place and subsequently have to cancel, can you please email Karen by 26th October 2009 latest so that we may offer your place to another colleague. **Unfortunately schools will be charged £30 for each person that books a place but does not attend unless we have been informed by this date.** Karen can be contacted by email to kafagan@buckscc.gov.uk.

Implementation of 14–19 reforms, including the introduction of Diplomas

Ofsted

Date: 17 Aug 2009

HMI: 080267

Publisher: Ofsted

Summary

This is Ofsted's second report evaluating the progress made in implementing 14–19 reforms. It follows up some of the key strategic issues of the first report, in 2008, and focuses particularly on the introduction of the new 14–19 Diplomas.

Overall, 14–19 initiatives have continued to widen opportunities and meet the needs of young people. Progress in introducing the Diplomas was promising across the 23 consortia visited, many of which have been at the forefront of 14–19 developments. While the main subject learning of the Diplomas was generally going well, other elements, and particularly functional skills, needed more attention.

[Download the full publication and available documents](#)

DCSF launch "myguide"

DCSF

Children's Minister Delyth Morgan has launched a new facility on myguide, a free and easy-to-use tool to help parents and carers catch up with their children when it comes to the Internet.

myguide helps provide the next step in the Government's implementation of Dr Tanya Byron's review of internet safety. myguide can be used independently, with the support of a friend or family member, or with help from experts in one of the thousands of UK online centres based in libraries and community organisations.

myguide has now added an interactive guidance course and quiz to help families manage the risks while enjoying the benefits of the web. It includes many of the top parental concerns about the internet, from phishing and spam to online rogue traders and extremist websites, from chat rooms to music file-sharing, and from stealth marketing to safety filters. The site stresses the importance of open family discussions and where to go for additional information and help.

<http://www.myguide.gov.uk>

Learner entitlement to ICT

Becta

Pupils should be given opportunities to apply and develop their ICT capability through the use of ICT tools to support their learning in all subjects. Becta, in partnership with Teachernet, has published a series of entitlement documents written in association with subject and phase experts which point to areas of the curriculum that can be truly enriched and enhanced through the use of technology.

<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/teachingandlearning/subjects/ict/bectadocs/>

Teachers' TV

teachers.tv

Teachers' TV launched its new season of programmes on Wednesday 16th September with something of a technological focus to much of the scheduled output.

A number of other programmes will cover ICT across the curriculum, with a continuation of the channel's 'Hard to Teach' series, in which teachers explore technological approaches to those bits of subject curricula with which pupils often struggle. Social media receives attention too, with a programme exploring the use of Twitter, wikis and avatars for modern language teaching as part of the Better Learning with ICT series.

There's much to commend these and other programmes as part of a CPD programme, accessible via an Internet connection for independent study or twilight sessions, thanks to the channels commitment to using the web as a medium for its programmes; indeed, more viewers watch Teachers' TV online than via TV now.

<http://www.teachers.tv/ict/secondary>

<http://www.teachers.tv/ict/primary>

Becta welcomes launch of new Microsoft subscription licensing option for UK schools

Becta

Pilot scheme for UK schools allows more choice and better value for money.

On 6 July Becta welcomed Microsoft's launch of the new Subscription Enrolment Schools Pilot (SESP) for UK schools, which provides greater flexibility and choice for schools who wish to use a Microsoft subscription agreement.

The new SESP agreement builds on Microsoft's existing School Agreement, which dealt with subscription licensing for schools. SESP removes the requirement for schools using a Microsoft subscription licensing agreement to license Microsoft products across their entire "eligible" ICT estate.

This increased choice will deliver essential flexibility for schools. It will also considerably increase the potential cost savings by removing the need for schools that want to use a Microsoft subscription agreement to continue to pay Microsoft to license systems that are:

- beyond those which are required on the basis of educational need
- running competitor technologies (eg MacOS, Linux, OpenOffice.org, etc.)
- technically incapable of running the licensed software
- already licensed under other licensing options.

Additionally the new SESP agreement introduces a user-based licensing option through which licensed users will have the rights to use the software in both the institution and the home. Although the cost for the user-based option is based on pupil numbers, it will, when licensed institution-wide, automatically provide usage rights for teachers, non-teaching staff and governors. Schools who wish to use Microsoft software via a subscription agreement will have the flexibility to license it based on the number of computers, the number of users, or a combination of both.

Full article: <http://news.becta.org.uk/display.cfm?resID=40552>

Ictopus – September'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 9th September 2009

The first batch of lessons2go for this academic year is now available. What a super date to start on: 09/09/09!

This week we have activities for the following age groups:

- Age 5-6: History, Shopping Long Ago
In this activity children will use archive photographs from the Sainsbury's virtual museum to find out about shops of the past. They will use this information to complete a simple writing frame explaining the differences between then and now.
- Age 10-11: Science, Adaptation
The children make use of a PowerPoint resource from ARKive Education and other online resources to learn about adaptation. A writing frame is included with this activity. The files are zipped for your convenience.

Available on 23rd September 2009

The next batch of lessons2go is now available. Although the fractions lesson is aimed at children aged 8-9, the link to the shapes program could serve other purposes. It could be used to construct new shapes or

repeated patterns with younger children. The two links in the traffic lights activity could be used to support other work on Control or Sensing.

This week we have activities for the following age groups:

- Age 8-9: Maths, Learning About Fractions
This lesson encourages children to think about and explore fractions expressed in the form of geometrical shapes. The fundamental unit of an equilateral triangle is combined to form a rhombus (2 units), a trapezium (3 units) and a hexagon (6 units).
- Age 9-10: Design and Technology, Traffic Lights
In this activity pupils create a sequence of instructions to operate a set of traffic lights. This can be achieved at different levels, depending on time and the equipment available.

Ictopus – Sharing Good Practice 78 & 79

Ictopus

SGP78 is now available. We begin the new academic year with a detailed look at one piece of software that has inspired our regular writer Simon Haughton. Following this, on page 6, we give details of our new publication *ictopus@home* and a change to the scheduling of SGP.

SGP79 is now available. Our first piece this week is an article originally published in Primary Science, the magazine from the Association for Science Education. Trainee teacher Sarah Evans tells us how, with the support of tutor Mick Dunne, she explored the value of using novel digital equipment with very young children. In the second piece, Eddie Carron throws out a challenge to all teachers of reading.

Why not share your best teaching ideas through SGP?

We would love an article from you about the ways you are using ICT in your teaching. If you feel that you could make a contribution please get in touch via the 'contact us' button in the right hand menu on the website. (We do pay a little £50 thank you for each piece published!)

ictopus @ home

Ictopus

Here is our new service – *ictopus@home* – a four page fortnightly magazine for families from *ictopus*.

Each issue will start with a general article of interest to parents and children using ICT together for home education and will contain activities on a specific topic for three age ranges 3-5, 5-7 and 7-11.

If you are not yet registered, sign up for your regular FREE fortnightly copy. Click on the login/register button, choose to 'register as a home user' and tick the box to receive the alert. You will then be sent a fortnightly email alert when each issue of *ictopus@home* is ready. This will have a link to the *ictopus* website where you can pick up your copy.

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**.

Subscription Details

Becta

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