

e-Update April 2010

Welcome to the 60th 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/eupdate>.

If you have any comments on e-Update, please send them to adickson@buckscc.gov.uk.

Naace Connect

Naace

Naace Connect (<http://www.naace.co.uk/949>) is a new and exciting online video magazine for Naace members and others interested in educational ICT. Each programme is approximately half an hour in length and divided into 5 minute episodes which include interviews with practitioners, key stakeholders and thinkers in educational ICT that meets the aims of the association. Naace Connect is distributed online via Naace.tv and other appropriate online channels and is covered by a Creative Commons Licence and we encourage you to distribute the episodes to help spread the word about good educational ICT practice.

Naace Connect Programme 1, Spring 2010

In the first programme of Naace Connect we are treated to five episodes:

Mobile Phones supporting English

Rachel Johnson, an English teacher at Sandon High School in Stoke-on-Trent, shows how she harnesses students' mobile phones to improve learning outcomes in English.

Web 2.0 Applications in Modern Foreign Languages

Jose Picardo, Head of Modern Languages at Nottingham High School for Boys, describes how he harnesses web applications to improve learning outcomes for his students.

Barriers to adoption in Secondary Schools compared to Primaries

Professor Angela McFarlane outlines why it is often more difficult to develop innovative ICT-enabled approaches in secondary schools.

Bridging the Digital Divide: 1

Becta's Niel McLean describes the Home Access Project.

Bridging the Digital Divide: 2

Becta's Vanessa Pittard reports on early findings from the Home Access Project.

<http://www.naace.co.uk/953>

Naace Connect Programme 2, Summer 2010

The second programme of Naace Connect concentrates on Learning Platforms in Schools:

Secondary School

In these episodes staff and students at St Peter's High School in Stoke-on-Trent explain how learning and teaching is enhanced by their Learning Platform.

<http://www.naace.co.uk/999>

Children, Schools and Families Bill

DCSF

Press release 7 April 2010

Following discussions with the opposition parties, the Government last night tabled amendments to the Children, Schools and Families Bill to enable some parts of the Bill to be passed into law before Parliament is dissolved. The provisions that remain cover:

- Special Educational Needs (SEN) – requiring school inspectors to report explicitly on provision for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities, and giving parents a new right to appeal if their child's special educational needs statement is not amended at annual review.
- Alternative Provision – local authorities will be required to provide full-time education for children and young people who for medical, social or emotional reasons, or because they are waiting for a place in a maintained school, are not in school but in alternative provision.
- Powers of Governing Bodies – giving school governing bodies greater powers on how they use their budgets, and the power to set up new schools and academies.
- Local Safeguarding Children Boards – new provisions will be introduced to ensure effective information sharing and strengthen the evaluation of Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) to improve safeguarding arrangements.
- Family Courts – provisions to build public confidence in family courts through allowing greater media reporting of proceedings.
- Amendment to Apprentices, Skills, Children and Learning Act – on the role of the Local Government Ombudsman.

However, some key provisions have been taken out because no agreement could be reached between the Government and opposition parties. These provisions covered the following policy areas:

- The Pupil and Parent Guarantees – which guarantee core rights and entitlements for pupils and parents, including catch-up lessons, 1-2-1 tuition and small group support for pupils needing extra support.
- Home School Agreements – the Bill strengthens Home School Agreements, making them more personalised for each pupil, and new and stronger powers to enforce parents' responsibilities in supporting the school in maintaining good behaviour including the possibility of a court-imposed parenting order.
- Reform of the primary curriculum – the reforms to the primary curriculum, following Sir Jim Rose's extensive expert review, provide greater flexibility for schools to tailor teaching to the needs and interests of their children while also focusing on the basics of literacy, numeracy and ICT.
- Introduction of compulsory Personal Social Health and Economic (PSHE) education – the PSHE provisions ensure that all children receive at least one year of compulsory sex and relationship education (SRE) by making PSHE compulsory, and lowering the age at which parents can withdraw their children from PSHE from 19 to 15 years old. Legal advice to the Secretary of State was that increasing the age of the PSHE opt-out to 16 would have made the bill non-compliant with the ECHR.
- The new Licence to Practise for teachers – this licence, accompanied by a contractual entitlement to continuing professional development, will establish the professional standing of the workforce and provide teachers with the status they deserve.
- Registration and monitoring of home education – following Graham Badman's independent report into home education, these provisions put in place a valuable tool for local authorities in their work to safeguard all children.
- School Improvement Partners (SIPs) – the powers of SIPs will be updated so headteachers receive peer support, and challenge.
- Data for the school report card – the new school report card gives fairer and more accurate accountability for schools and gives parents even more information about the schools their children attend.
- Schools eligible for intervention and schools causing concern – the Bill strengthens local authority powers to intervene in schools causing concern, and more powers for the Secretary of State to intervene where improvement is not good enough.
- Youth Offending Teams – the Bill gives powers for the Secretary of State to intervene where an inspection or other evidence reveals a significant failing in a Youth Offending Team (YOT) which may be putting young people or the wider community at risk.
- Parental satisfaction surveys – this duty on local authorities would require them proactively to seek parents' views on the range and quality of secondary school places in their area and then act on their responses.

Press release:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/news/index.cfm?event=news.item&id=statement_on_the_children_schools_and_families_bill

The full text of the Act as passed is at www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2010/ukpga_20100026_en_1

Futurelab Newsletter April 2010

Futurelab

Issue 68 - of the Futurelab Newsletter is now available. Articles this month include:

Digital literacy across the curriculum.

Our latest handbook aims to introduce educational practitioners to the concepts and contexts of digital literacy and to support them in developing their own practice of digital literacy in classroom subject teaching and in real school settings. The handbook is supported by video case studies of digital literacy in practice.

<http://www.futurelab.org.uk/resources/publications-reports-articles/handbooks/Handbook1706>

EcoBugs.

EcoBugs is a game designed to encourage children aged 7-11 to take an active interest in the environment by collecting and cataloguing new species of virtual creatures. The game uses the global issues of sustainability, pollution and overfishing, and scales them down to a scenario they can relate to and engage with. EcoBugs has reached the finals of the 2010 Digital Media and Learning Competition. The competition is designed to find and inspire novel uses of new media to support learning. To vote in the competition click the link below and leave a comment in support of EcoBugs.

<http://www.dmlcompetition.net/pligg/story.php?title=302>

If you've like to the newsletter, please go to <http://forms.futurelab.org.uk/subscribe/>

Ictopus – April'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 21st April 2010

The next pair of lessons2go is now available. This week's lessons both involve investigations to be carried out by the children. They both make use of software which helps to analyse data, and give a useful context for working on the required skills needed to use this software.

This week we have activities for the following age groups:

- Age 8-9: Science, How we grow
Children will plan and carry out an investigation to find out which parts of our bodies grow the fastest. The work makes use of a database program. A writing frame for reporting on the investigation is supplied. The lesson plan and supporting file have been zipped for your convenience.
- Age 10-11: Maths, Sheep pen
This lesson is about problem solving. It is an investigation into the relationship between area and perimeter. The lesson uses a spreadsheet program to perform the calculations and the graphing facility to illustrate the results. Although this is a reasonably well publicised problem for solving on a spreadsheet, the follow-up activities listed below offer a number of further challenges to the more able pupils

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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).
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Becta

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