



e-learning

Issue 1
September 2007

ICT News and Information for Bedfordshire Schools

Welcome to this first issue of our new newsletter from Russell House. The aim of this newsletter is to highlight new developments and good practice and alert schools to new learning opportunities. *Please display this on the staff noticeboard.*

Learning platforms plan welcomed by schools

More than two thirds of County Schools have responded to the invitation to join the LA pilot to develop the use of learning platforms and of these, 97% want to be involved. The pilot group for the Autumn Term will involve some 92 schools with over 30 more following in the Spring, 2008. Neil Turner, who is leading the learning platforms plan said "I am delighted that so many schools can see the real value of establishing a common learning platform across schools in all phases. The majority of schools have opted to use Netmedia which is not only a preferred E2BN choice but is also part of Espresso which has become such a valuable curriculum resource for schools".

The Next Steps

This month sees the secondment of Louise Oliver from Greys Education Centre to the RHS team. Her role will be to support, monitor, evaluate and review the pilot activity, supported by a full time trainer from Netmedia. Louise has extensive experience of using learning platforms through her successful online learning work at Greys Education Centre. She is looking forward to working with all pilot schools in implementing learning platforms as a key element of transformational learning.



Action Points for Schools

- ✓ Share information about what a learning platform is and how your school intends to exploit the potential of this significant opportunity in the next school year.
- ✓ Consider how you, as an individual teacher will begin to use the learning platform to promote personalised learning with your students.

The Schools website has examples of what learning platforms can do to improve teaching and learning. Details of workshops for teachers on the use of a learning platform will be issued shortly.

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In the light of very positive feedback from the primary sector on the value of Espresso curriculum resources, RHS has negotiated a great deal with Espresso to continue this service for all schools for a further year. As part of the deal, Upper Schools will have cache servers installed which will provide the new secondary content. This new content will also be available to all Middle and Special Schools. Additionally, staff will be able to access the Espresso content from their home internet connection.

Details about accessing Espresso from home will be issued to individual schools later this month.

ICT Review

This term, the local authority is commissioning an independent review and report on ICT across all schools in the County. This review will focus on:

- the nature of support provided to schools for the development of ICT
- the response of schools to the support provided to the development of ICT

The overall aim of this review is to take stock of where we are in developing the use of ICT and to identify where and how the local authority might improve the support that schools receive. Full details will be issued directly to schools at the end of this month.

e-Learning Board

The first meeting of the new e-Learning Board took place last week under the chairmanship of Jeff Hooper (representing the Assistant Director for Schools). The Board agreed its terms of reference and got down to exploring plans for theme 10 of the County Education Plans 'Transforming teaching and learning through ICT'. Discussion focused on how we can effectively share and develop our strategic approach to e-Learning with schools. The e-Learning team was charged with preparing an initial presentation for this term's round of meetings with headteachers answering the question; what does e-learning mean for schools in practical terms and why is it so important that schools should engage with it?

The e-Learning Board has eight headteacher representatives and it will steer the direction of e-Learning within the County. An early target is to work through the key elements of a new e-Learning Strategy reflecting our best practice.

EProfile new user training courses

There are still a few places left on this course related to a free Foundation Stage tool for recording assessments, providing reports for parents and showing progress of individual pupils through simple and effective charts.

Friday 18th November 2007, 9.30 to 1.00

To book your place please telephone:
01234 836040

Support@schools.bedfordshire.gov.uk

IMS Headlines—Autumn Term 2007 Annual IM Seminars

For Capita SIMS schools – Thursday 22nd November 2007 at the **Rufus Centre, Flitwick** 9.30 – 1.00pm.

For Integris schools - Friday 23rd November 2007 at the **Rufus Centre, Flitwick** OR

Monday 26th November 2007 at the **Forest Centre, Marston Vale** - 9.30am – 1.00pm.

Agenda details will be available from the IMS link on the Bedfordshire schools web site nearer the time.

These seminars are becoming an important vehicle for the dissemination of latest information relating to statutory collections. They are also a valuable opportunity for schools to discuss issues relating to effective data management. All schools are encouraged to be represented.

Note: the above events are free of charge!

To book your place please telephone the Education ICT helpdesk on 01234 836040/836041

Email: ict@lea.bedfordshire.gov.uk

School Census 2007/8

ALL schools will be producing census returns on a termly basis from January 2007.

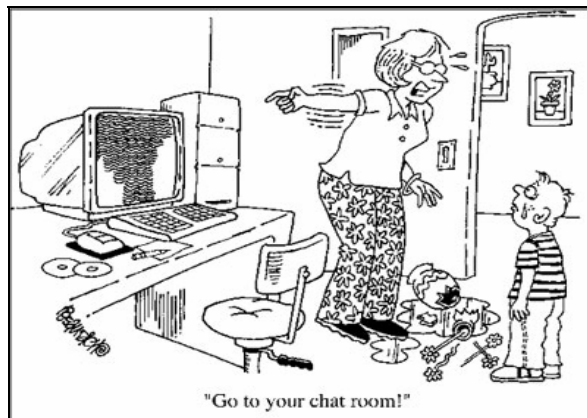
Census dates are as follows:

Autumn Term - Thursday 4th October 2007

Spring Term - Thursday 17th January 2008

Summer Term - Thursday 15th May 2008

Please ensure that you are using the new language codes in your MIS system by the October census.



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