



## e-learning

ICT News and Information for Bedfordshire Schools

Issue 6  
April 2008

**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 board.*



**Since September 2007, over 100 schools have started to explore the potential of Learning Platforms.** We now have a wide range of projects underway across the Authority. Some are as simple as sharing a calendar across a Year group, whereas others involve creating content and lesson activities.



At Harrold Priory Middle School, the students have taken ownership of their Learning Platform by engaging in forums. The students are regularly logging on after school to communicate with

one another about issues of the day.

Grange Special School is using the Learning Platform as a way of sharing information and key documents across the staff: staff now routinely log on to keep up to date about upcoming events.



Priory Lower School has also set up a teachers' area while the team at Hazeldene Lower School has created a resources

page which lists online activities for their Year 3 colleagues.



A pyramid of five schools in Bedford are working together to look at ways of developing greater cross-phase cohesion while schools in Learning Community 3 are looking at the Learning Platform to support the transition process between Years 4 and 5. Across Bedfordshire, schools are forging links with neighbouring schools and those further a-field: sharing content, collaborating on projects and communicating with each other.

*If you have something you would like to share or you would like to know more about others doing similar work to you, contact Neil Turner or Louise Oliver. [Neil.turner@rhouse.co.uk](mailto:Neil.turner@rhouse.co.uk), [louise.oliver@rhouse.co.uk](mailto:louise.oliver@rhouse.co.uk)*

### Bedfordshire's First Learning Platform Conference

**Tuesday 15th July 2008  
09.00 to 16.00**

**Conference Centre  
Priory Business Park**

- \* A celebration of exemplary e-Learning practice with particular reference to learning platform developments
- \* An opportunity to share and collaborate with colleagues as we go forward into the new school year.

More details soon on the learning platform and the schools website.

## Integrating MIS with Learning Platforms

Lynchpin is a new technology which enables schools to share data between their SIMS system and Netmedia. It allows the automatic update of selected data between both systems.

If your school uses SIMS, and is keen to explore the potential of Lynchpin, please contact either Neil Turner or Louise Oliver. For those schools that use Integris as their main MIS, information will follow later in the year about the integration with the Learning Platform. Watch this space...!



## Our One Stop Shop!

**Our Education ICT Services can provide for all your ICT needs at school ... from office to classroom.**

### Installations

We are able to provide competitive quotes for the supply and installation of both admin and curriculum workstations, interactive whiteboards, data projectors, file servers, laser and inkjet printers, laptops, laptop trolleys, memory upgrades, consumables, Promethean Activote, fibre optic cabling, electrical points, full or partial refit of computer suites, etc.

### Project Management

On larger projects we can provide a trained Project Manager to oversee the project on your behalf.

### Help Desk

Our Help desk, a one-stop shop for ICT services, is staffed by qualified ICT professionals and is closely linked to our Service Department - offering qualified technicians and service engineers for the service callout and repair of equipment. We endeavour to fix your problem in the first call. If we can't, your call will be passed onto our second line support team.

Contact Catherine Colgan (Customer Services Manager) to discuss your needs  
01234 836192

## Teacher resources available through the Learning Platform

Those already using the Learning Platform will be aware of the potential to share resources and collaborate across schools, phases and Learning Communities, but do you know about the 'class' pages available to you in the Local Authority (b99) Learning Platform area?

We have class pages for a range of Professional Study Groups where class members swap ideas, take part in discussions and upload content.

FORUM	RECENT DISCUSSION TOPICS	POSTS	LAST UPDATED
<a href="#">Geography Inter School Challenge</a>	<a href="#">Geography quiz?</a> ★NEW	4	<a href="#">geog teacher</a> Fri 16 Apr 2008 7:55 pm
<a href="#">Countries of the world performance</a>	<a href="#">Ideas wanted</a> ★NEW	2	<a href="#">geog teacher</a> Fri 18 Apr 2008 7:50 pm
<a href="#">KS2 Resources</a>	<a href="#">Free CD</a> ★NEW	1	<a href="#">geog teacher</a> Fri 18 Apr 2008 7:46 pm
<a href="#">Fantastir PSG</a>	<a href="#">Things to think about</a> ★NEW	1	<a href="#">geog teacher</a> Thu 17 Apr 2008 4:41 pm

The School Improvement Network is also looking at using the Learning Platform to share information and disseminate current DCSF guidance with colleagues, as well as best practice examples and content. These Learning Platform pages will supplement the content available on the Schools' website, but will offer the secure communicative and collaborative tools unique to Learning Platforms.

To access these areas, please contact Neil Turner or Louise Oliver.

## CPD for Teachers



Based on the success of this year's pilot MA module:

### 'resource and e-based learning'

(In collaboration with the University of Bedfordshire) we will be offering teachers the opportunity to study the concepts and pedagogies that underpin e-based learning once again in the Autumn Term.

Please contact Louise Oliver  
louise.oliver@rhouse.co.uk

**The next e-learning newsletter will be issued on Friday, 25th May, 2008**

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