



Central Bedfordshire Council
and Bedford Borough Council

working together

Children's Services



e-learning

ICT News and Information for Bedfordshire Schools

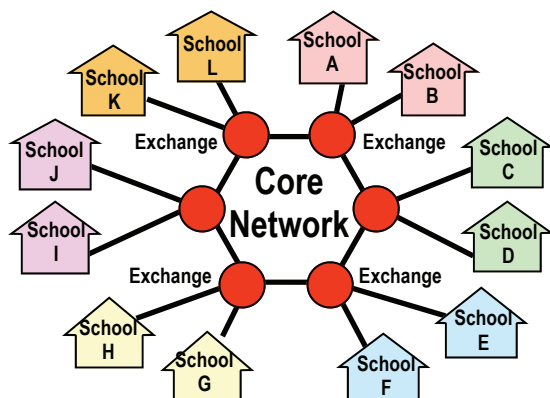
Issue 15
June, 2009

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.

New, Improved Network for Bedfordshire Schools

Like all Local Authorities, Bedfordshire has received a standards fund grant to: "improve connectivity and bandwidth for schools, taking into account that the costs of providing broadband connectivity to schools are comparatively higher for rural local authorities"



What will be achieved is that the core of the Bedfordshire schools network will be upgraded to a 100Mb fibre optic link into local exchanges from which schools will have a **single unique connection** to that exchange. From the exchange, schools will get the following bandwidths:

- Lower Schools will be upgraded to 10Mb (Some small schools with less than 100 pupils will be upgraded to 4Mb initially)
 - Middle Schools will be upgraded to 20Mb
 - Upper Schools will be upgraded to 100Mb
- The main link to E2Bn will also be upgraded from 100Mb to 150Mb to allow for the increase in the use of the internet as schools implement learning platforms. All Head teachers have received a letter from the Local Authority with more details of these improvements.



Next Generation Learning Platform

As you may have heard, Netmedia is joining Europe's largest Learning Platform supplier, 'it's learning'. This will bring many new features within the Next Generation Learning Platform. Over the coming year the e-learning strategy team will be working with Netmedia to ensure that schools receive all the benefits of the new system, as well as access to a host of new features. We are planning to assess the capability of the new features and will be looking to make recommendations to schools from September 2009.



An Opportunity you can't refuse...

E2BN has secured a free trial of Education City for all of Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire Lower and Middle schools. The free access will last for eight weeks and will run from 18th May until 31st July 2009. In order to gain access to the free trial, please ring the following number to obtain your unique Username and Password:

0870 350 1860
www.EducationCity.com

Support@schools.bedfordshire.gov.uk

www.schools.bedfordshire.gov.uk
www.rhouse.co.uk

Sharing Learning Platform progress: recent Open Day

Last month, around fifty students from ten middle and lower schools gathered together at Henlow Middle School to share their experiences in using the Learning Platform. Schools were invited to send four or five students to the event along with a member of staff.



For two hours, students shared their top tips with other students and staff. They demonstrated the immense range of properties they had chosen to enhance their desktops and showed off the classes available to them.

Some students were new to Learning Platforms (one group had only been shown it for the first time that week!) while others had a wealth of experience. They taught each other how to add properties, they demonstrated favourite properties, learned how to organise emails and exchanged email addresses. A page was created on the Learning Platform prior to the event and was updated during the afternoon and afterwards with photographs and audio interviews created by students. Students and staff enjoyed the event and the Learning Platform class page created for the afternoon has continued to be used since by staff and students. If you would like to join the class, contact:

Bethany.Coles@rhouse.co.uk

Next Event e-Learning Open Day on Monday 13th July at Priory Park. Note the date now!

The day will include opportunities to view and assess content, understand more about the issues surrounding e-Safety and work with the e-Learning team to take your Learning Platform development plan further. More information on the LP soon.

MIS Open Day

The proposal for a single web based system for all Bedfordshire schools is an important and necessary requirement in our strategic MIS solution for online reporting.

Sessions are being organised for senior management teams, data managers and administrators to see web based management information systems (MIS) in action; find out what web MIS is and what it can do.

**Tuesday 30th June
at the Rufus Centre, Flitwick.**

Please note the date. Further details will be emailed to schools shortly. Contact:

Cathy.Piotrowski@rhouse.co.uk



Technology competition

Middle schools are invited to enter this technology competition, which aims to reward innovative and creative use of ICT resources for the benefit of the school, pupils and the local community.

A cash prize of £1,200 will be available for the winning school from each of the English regions and Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. From these entries, £4,000 (first place), £2,500 (second place) and £1,500 (third place) will be awarded to three overall winners.

The nature and content of the project is open but it should show an innovative project that demonstrates the best use of the school's ICT resources to the benefit of the school, local community, in the UK or across the world. The project should make a positive difference to people's happiness. Entries may be in any format, for example, podcasts, flyers or a website. The ICT project must be undertaken by a group of pupils aged nine to eleven.

The closing date for entries is 31 July 2009.

<http://makeithappy.cc4g.net>

**The next e-learning newsletter will be issued on Friday, 3rd July, 2009
If you want a copy sent to your email address, contact j.oliver@glc.me.uk**