

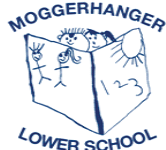


e-learning

Issue 14
March, 2009

ICT News and Information for Bedfordshire Schools

**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.**



And the student becomes the master...

*Cascading the Learning Platform throughout the school
by letting the pupils lead the way*

After initial staff training on the learning platform, Sarah Thomson, ICT Co-ordinator at Moggerhanger Lower School decided that the best way forward was for the pupils to lead the development. Firstly, pupils were asked what they would like to see on their desktops. They quickly suggested Properties like 'Newsround', 'Art of the Day', weather and links to their favourite films and bands. The School Council established their own area as did some after-school clubs such as 'Art Club' and 'Lego Club'. Pupils were also encouraged to personalise their Learning Platform. Once engaged, the next step was to introduce more curriculum-based

information. A topic-based approach was adopted providing a simple way for pupils to become familiar with accessing work and resources. The pupils took to the Learning Platform instantly so Sarah then involved them in helping the staff and becoming 'buddies' to younger pupils.

Looking to the future, the school intends to provide access to governors and to set up a homework club. The approach has resulted in student population that is engaged, interested and excited about using the Learning Platform.

For much more detail about this case study and other case studies, go to the Netmedia Knowledge Exchange in the Bedfordshire Notices Class.

The Importance of ICT, 2005-08 Newly Published OFSTED Report



OFSTED has just published a report on ICT inspections in 177 schools. The evidence points to some improvement in impact and includes recommendations that all schools should:

- evaluate the effectiveness of their provision for teaching students how to keep themselves safe when online and record incidents where the safety of individuals may be compromised
- ensure that they achieve value for money by implementing the principles of best value in evaluating, planning,

procuring and using ICT provision

- improve the assessment of ICT by establishing pupils' and students' attainment on entry and by tracking the progress of individual pupils, including their achievement when using ICT in other subjects
- audit the training needs of teachers and teaching assistants and provide extra support to improve their subject knowledge and expertise, particularly in data logging, manipulating data and programming.



Moving Forward into Unitary Councils

From 1st April, the e-Learning Strategy Team will be hosted by

Central Bedfordshire and have a Service Level Agreement with Bedford Borough.

In other words, Bethany Coles, Jim Oliver, Louise Oliver, Cathy Piotrowski and Neil Turner will still be working with all schools across the County.

E-Safety Progress

After Easter, current work on draft e-safety and acceptable use policies will be reviewed by a newly constituted e-safeguarding group. With representation from all parts of Children's Services as well as related agencies like the Police and Connexions, this group will co-ordinate support for schools in e-safety matters.

Website Provision

The Schools Website (www.schools.bedfordshire.gov.uk) will continue to serve the needs of school practitioners across both new councils. Over the next year, we have a programme to transfer appropriate material to the Netmedia Learning Platform and the corporate websites of the new councils—as appropriate.

Becta SRF Pilot

We have been invited by Becta to participate in the trialling of a new Self Review Framework for Local Authorities. This is a timely opportunity for senior colleagues in both new councils to spend a day evaluating our position and identifying future priorities. The meeting is scheduled for the end of April. More news in the next newsletter.

*"The Internet?
We are not
interested in it."*

Bill Gates,
Microsoft, 1981

**The next e-learning newsletter will be issued on Friday, 5th June, 2009
If you want a copy delivered to your email address, contact j.oliver@glc.me.uk**



Joint e-Learning Board

From 1st April, the e-Learning Board will be re-constituted to reflect the needs of schools across the two unitary authorities.

One of the earliest agenda items will be to review the aims and responsibilities of the Board.

Aims

- To lead on the strategic direction of e-Learning as a key means of raising standards and achievement.
- To facilitate the exchange of best practice and information between schools.
- To raise the profile of e-Learning and ensure that our e-Learning strategy is 'owned' by the schools and reflected in school development plans.

Responsibilities

- To monitor, evaluate and review progress related to the areas of work outlined in the e-Learning Strategy document
- To keep the eLearning Strategy up to date reflecting leading edge work in schools.
- To enable phase representatives to provide feedback to their area and phase liaison meetings, and report back to the board on any issues arising.
- To gather information from phase representatives related to any initiatives undertaken by schools or groups of schools within their phase.

If you have views about the future work of the joint e-Learning Board and/or you are a Head interested in being a board representative, contact any member of the existing Board.

School Representatives

Terry Ashmore (Greys Education Centre)
David Brandon Bravo (Parkfield Middle)
Anita Hemsley (Priory Lower)
Robert Robson (Samuel Whitbread College)
Dave Saunders (Robert Peel Lower)
Rosemary Waters (Stanbridge Lower)

LA Representatives;

Michael Daly, Chris Gill, Brian Glover, Jenny Harris, Jim Oliver, Louise Oliver, Cathy Piotrowski, Neil Turner, Patrick Shelvin.

Support@schools.bedfordshire.gov.uk

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