

e-learning

Issue 5
March 2008

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.**



ICT Excellence Awards



The ICT Excellence Awards aim to identify and reward whole school excellence in ICT. Schools which are approaching the use of ICT in outstanding or innovative ways can gain recognition for their achievements and a cash prize to develop their work.

By recognising whole-school best practice these awards are closely aligned with Becta's self-review framework and the ICT Mark. While rewarding the school as a whole, there is also a focus within the awards on those individuals leading change within the school and making an impact across it.

Categories for Entry

There are four

- 1. Best whole-school (early years, primary and secondary)
- 2. Beyond the classroom (primary (including early years) and secondary)
- 3. Leadership, management and collaboration (primary (including early years) and secondary)
- 4. Learning experience (primary (including early years) and secondary)

The closing date for this year's entries is 30th April.

<http://awards.becta.org.uk>

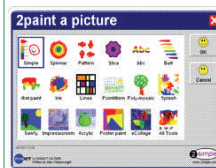
Information Security: Risk Assessment

Security of personal information is an increasingly important issue for schools. Schools hold significant volumes of potentially sensitive information that is regularly shared with stakeholders including pupils and parents, who are using remote access technologies more and more.

EICTS has commissioned a specialist to identify the key information assets and the risks that relate to them. This will allow us to identify priorities for action and the direction for development work over the next few months.

We will report on progress related to this issue, in next month's edition.

Useful Software



New award winning software is available (with discount if Bedfordshire LA is mentioned).

2Paint A Picture from 2Simple software is a brilliant programme giving pupils' access to a variety of brush styles and pattern making templates for digital art in the style of different art movements. Particularly good for KS1 & 2.

www.2simple.com



Gifted & Talented

There is a whole new section related to this topic on the schools website: link on the website's home page.

Outcomes from the E-Learning Board

Two key issues were addressed at this month's meeting.

Learning Platforms

- 97 schools are fully involved in the 'extended pilot', the evaluation is currently in progress and will be completed by Easter. The procurement process will then commence in April/May subject to the e-Learning board's approval. Full implementation for all schools will start in September.
- The e-Learning board are investigating a school support model which will involve up to seven, area-based 'champions' supporting their local schools for the equivalent of one day per week.
- The Board considered risks and issues related to implementation of the platform and identified ways to minimise these.

ICT Review

- A revised strategy for ICT development across Children's Services is being developed and the outcomes of the ICT Review will be considered within this context.
- The board emphasised the need for a clear vision for ICT as part of the transforming learning and teaching agenda. It is looking to develop an action plan based on this vision and delivered through Pyramids and Trusts.

The board also agreed a proposal for the Schools Forum related to the Harnessing Technology funding which replaces the LA retained standards fund and e-learning credits.

The Board's School Representatives

Neil Smith: John Bunyan Upper School
David Brandon Bravo: Parkfields Middle School
Marilyn Ravenor: Willowfield Lower School
Carl Peters: Weatherfield Special School
Terry Ashmore: Greys Education Centre

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 16th April. Contact your representative to raise any issues.



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



Support@schools.bedfordshire.gov.uk

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

Website of the Month



ICT Investment Planner

Becta has produced a tool to help you understand the annual operation and replacement costs of ICT in your school. The tool highlights how the value and cost of ICT changes over time and provides a sound basis for planning future ICT investments.

The tool can be used by anyone in your school who makes decisions about investing in ICT. You do not need detailed technical knowledge to use it.

www.becta.org.uk/schools/ictinvestmentplanner

Notices

Cover Card: Schools have received a letter outlining services for 08/09. Don't hesitate to contact EICTS with any queries: Financial matters to SuiMimi.Wong@rhouse.co.uk & service provision to Gordon.Kerr@rhouse.co.uk or Catherine.Colgan@rhouse.co.uk

Integris schools: from Monday 2nd June, the RM helpdesk for the Integris Admin, Attendance, School Census & Behaviour modules will transfer over to the Schools' Finance Team. Janis Kostovic will be managing the transition work which will start after the Easter break. Schools should continue to use the same helpdesk numbers 01234 836040/836041 until further notice. We believe this new arrangement for an integrated helpdesk service will offer opportunities for enhanced support to our Integris schools.

Accessing Espresso from home: an email has been sent to schools known to be using this service explaining that passwords have changed this term. If staff have not used this service yet, they will need to ask their Headteacher what their current username and password is. If in difficulties, contact Neil Turner; Neil.Turner@rhouse.co.uk