



e-learning

Issue 9
September 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.

"It has changed the way we work" *A Student Eye View of the Learning Platform*



Henry is a student at Harrold Middle School. Like many students, he has really enjoyed the new learning opportunities which have come his way with the introduction of the learning platform.

He writes:

"The Learning Platform is great in school and at home. It has changed the way we do some of our homework and what we do if we get stuck with a project; even how to make the school better through online voting.

The Main Areas

There are four main areas which I use:

mydesktop, myclasses, mymail and myportfolio. This has changed the way I might do things in a lesson. For example, there might be a link there to the website I need to go to at home for my homework, or there may be several sites with small articles which would take a long time to load individually, so instead the teacher can quote the paragraphs in a property within a class for us to use.

...and it's not just for school work

Also we can email our friends. The Learning Platform means we can do this in a safe environment and it is fun to communicate with your friends after school or even in the holidays to keep in touch. So this type of learning has helped in school and at home. My friends and I really enjoy working with the Learning Platform."

Data Handling Security Guidance *The new Becta Guidelines*

Recent losses of personal and sensitive information have highlighted the need to update security guidance for schools. Clear policies and agreed practices should help to prevent losses and minimise the risk of data being misused should it fall into the wrong hands.

Becta has now produced an introductory document "Keeping data secure, safe and legal" and four good practice guides related to Impact levels and labelling, Data

encryption, Audit logging and incident handling, and Secure remote access. All these documents are particularly important for school leaders and network managers and they are available for download in various forms. [www.schools.becta.org.uk] The e-Learning strategy team is considering the impact of the new guidelines for schools and will be proposing an action plan through the e-Learning Board.



Information and Notices

IM Seminars: Autumn 2008

The IM Seminar is an important event for data managers to be informed about statutory changes and developments in data collections, returns and data sharing affecting ALL schools for the school year 2008 – 2009. Contact cathy.piotrowski@rhouse.co.uk for further details.

Seminar 1

Date: Wednesday 8th October
Venue: Marston Vale Forest Centre

Seminar 2

Date: Thursday 16th October
Venue: Rufus Centre, Flitwick

Seminar 3

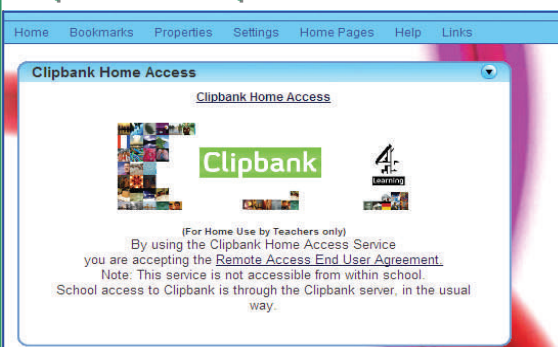
Date: Wednesday 12th November
Venue: Rufus Centre, Flitwick

Time: 9.30 – 3.00pm.

Places are FREE. Lunch provided.

Book by emailing
imsupport@schools.bedfordshire.gov.uk
with your name and school. No restrictions to the numbers attending from each school.

Espresso Clipbank Service



From 7th October, Upper Schools will be able to join Middle, Lower and Special School colleagues in accessing espresso content from home via the Netmedia Learning Platform. A new property will appear on all teachers' desktops, (a click on the clipbank icon will take you to the same content that exists on the school server).

For further information, contact
Neil Turner, neil.turner@rhouse.co.uk

Encyclopaedia Britannica

The LA has recently started a trial of Encyclopaedia Britannica within the Learning Platform (see the new EB search property appearing on teachers' and pupils' desktops). The e-Learning team propose to evaluate it (with your help via a Learning Platform survey) at the end of this term. The results of the survey will be presented to the e-Learning Board and a decision made as to whether the service is valued and should be purchased using retained Harnessing Technology funding on behalf of all schools.

For further information, contact
Neil Turner, neil.turner@rhouse.co.uk

ICT Lower School Co-ordinators' Sessions

The next series of these ever-popular meetings begins on 14th, 15th and 16th October. As in the past, there will be termly sessions this year.

For further information, see page 103 of the Portfolio or look online via the Schools Website >SWD Portfolio



EICTS has introduced a new way to purchase engineer support time, available in multiples of 10 hours, including parts. Also currently on trial is an exciting Remote Back-up Service removing the worry about backing up vital data.

Ring 01234 836193 or email
sales@rhouse.co.uk for advice/support

Learning Platform Workshops

Time: 4.00 p.m. to 5.15 p.m.

Date: Tuesday, 14th October
Venue: The Cedars Upper School
Date: Wednesday, 22nd October
Venue: Harrold Priory Middle School
Date: Tuesday, 11th November
Venue: Priory Business Park
Date: Thursday, 13th November
Venue: Hitchmead Special School
Date: Wednesday, 19th November
Venue: Henlow Middle School
Date: Tuesday, 2nd December
Venue: Priory Business Park

For session details, contact
Louise.Oliver@rhouse.co.uk

The next e-learning newsletter will be issued on Friday, 24th October, 2008

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www.schools.bedfordshire.gov.uk
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