

News Bytes Issue 8



14th September 2009

Welcome back to another academic year. We hope you have had a relaxing summer and are recharged ready for the Autumn term. If you do not subscribe to News Bytes, please visit www.curriculumict.com and click on Newsletter. Click on the free news service link and register online.

Curriculum ICT Support

The way we teach and children learn is evolving rapidly due to the impact of new technologies in and out of school.

The recent advances in handheld learning technologies including netbooks along with the proliferation of wireless network infrastructures means that the more traditional approach to ICT access only through an ICT suite is becoming obsolete. Today's learners and teachers need access to the internet and other online resources and Web 2.0 technologies wherever they are learning/teaching.

The use of these technologies will become commonplace in all schools over the next few years. Schools need to ensure they receive quality advice and guidance to support them in creating an effective technologically driven safe teaching and learning environment. ICT should not be seen as a discrete subject but should be used as a way to maximise the effectiveness of teaching, learning and management in the school.

The Curriculum ICT team offer curriculum support to schools to help them use ICT effectively to raise standards across the curriculum and to use ICT successfully to support whole school improvement. The team is managed by Mark Chambers. The Curriculum ICT team provide courses, INSET, cluster meetings, email support and content via www.curriculumict.com and www.mymobilelearning.com. If you have any queries about the services we offer please contact Tina Housley on 01274 385844.



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E-Safety - Teachers TV

During the Summer term 2009, OFSTED began conducting one day inspections with the focus being E-safety within the school and home environment. Within Bradford LA, three primary schools and one secondary school were inspected. During the last academic year Paul Scott (Lead Teaching and Learning Consultant - ICT) ran a number of e-safety awareness meetings for parents as well as three very successful half day conferences for teachers. Due to the success of these conferences Teachers TV asked Education Bradford to produce an e-safety awareness episode that will be aired on Wednesday 16th September. We would like to say thankyou to the children and staff at Parkwood Primary School, Keighley for volunteering to be involved in the programme. Links to the E-safety programme and other episodes Education Bradford have created with Teachers TV can be found on the Teachers TV link on www.curriculumict.com



Cars Maths in Motion Finalists 2009

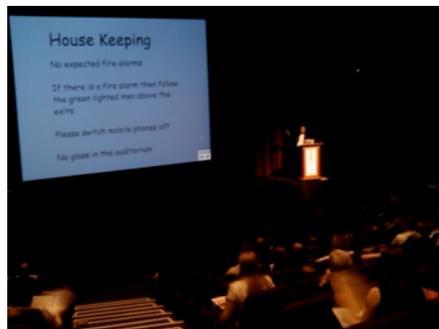


The Cars Maths in Motion National finals took place on Thursday 25th of June at the Heritage Motor Centre in Warwickshire where Bradford were represented by Peel Park Primary School. This was the 4th time Bradford has been represented in the National finals. 12 teams were to race in three categories - Primary/KS3/KS4.

With 3 laps to go before their first planned pitstop, Peel Park reached 4th place overall and were leading in the Primary category. They were about to pit at the end of lap 26 when DISASTER struck - they ran out of fuel. We think they were 1-2 litres short of fuel. Never mind - the girls did themselves proud and were a credit to their school.

A great day was had by all!

Digital Film and Animation Competition



Education Bradford's 5th Annual Film & Animation Competition sponsored by Lightbox Education was held in July at the National Media Museum. The red carpet event attracted entries from schools all over Bradford and the standard of this year's finalists was once again extremely high. The finalist's entries were all shown on the 'big screen' in the Pictureville theatre and children, parents and staff then voted for the various winners using handheld voting devices. The event allows Bradford schools to showcase their innovative and creative use of digital media (animations, Photostory 3 & films) across the curriculum and discuss the positive impact the use of these technologies have on teaching and learning. A full list of winners can be found on the website; registration for next year's competition will be available from January 2010.

Podcasting Competition Winners



The Education Bradford Podcasting Competition 09 has been won by three year 6 girls from Lower Fields Primary School. Not only did they win a podcasting bundle provided by Lightbox Education, they also had the opportunity to record their podcast with James Atkin, lead singer of the band EMF. Their podcast is also going to be hosted on Tony Vincent's "Our City" website.

The girls spent the morning with James in the recording studio at Greenhead CLC, Keighley. James demonstrated how a music single is constructed and even recorded a version of EMF's chart-topping anthem "You're Unbelievable" with the girls as backing singers. For more details about this year's competition please visit www.curriculumict.com

BLN subscription content

The Bradford Learning Network are pleased to announce that they have renewed the licence for EducationCity for all BLN schools until November 2010. The new licence includes free access to all the MFL resources and you will soon be contacted to see which language resources you would like.

The licence is a whole school site licence to be used in school only. EducationCity do offer homework passes which they have agreed to charge at just £1.00 per pupil for 1 years home access. A letter will soon be sent out to school asking if you would like to buy any home access passes.



Should you require training on EducationCity including MyCity which involves more personalised learning please contact curriculumict@educationbradford.com



The BLN have also purchased Shoofly which will be available to all BLN schools through the new Sharepoint portal. Shoofly are providers of engaging stories across all keystages that come with a variety of resources and ideas that are ideal for use on the whiteboard for whole class learning or through your VLE for independent study. For more information on shoofly please visit www.shooflypublishing.co.uk and keep an eye out on www.curriculumict.com for free training sessions on the Shoofly products.

All Bradford Learning Network schools have access to Scran (www.scran.ac.uk). Scran is an online learning resource base with over 360,000 images & media from museums, galleries, archives and the media.

Scran has added a Curriculum for Excellence section and their education officers have set about linking all 3,000+ Pathfinder Packs. They are thinking interdisciplinary thoughts, refreshing information and adjusting vocabulary where necessary as well as generating totally new resources for you to use in the classroom. Also, keep your eyes open for Scran interactive whiteboard resources later this term.

During 2009 Education Bradford has contributed 1400 records to Scran, search using "Bradford" as the key word to see the Pathfinder Packs produced to date.

For more information about the additional content BLN subscriber schools have access to please visit www.curriculumict.com and click on Bradford Learning Network.

Podcasting Workshops

This year, the podcasting training workshops will be run from the "Playing for Success" Centres at Bradford Bulls and Keighley Cougars. If you are a 2 star or above subscriber school attendance at the workshops is free. If your school does not subscribe to one of our Curriculum support packages the cost will be £100. The dates for the training sessions are as follows:-

Primary Podcasting Workshop - Wednesday 23rd September 9:30am-2:30pm - Keighley Cougars Playing for Success Centre

Primary Podcasting Workshop - Monday 28th September 9:30am-3:00pm - Bradford Bulls Playing for Success Centre

Secondary Podcasting Workshop - Wednesday 30th September 9:30am-2:30pm - Keighley Cougars Playing for Success Centre

Secondary Podcasting Workshop - Monday 12th October 9:30am-3:00pm - Bradford Bulls Playing for Success Centre

For more details about this year's podcasting competition and to register for the workshops, please visit www.curriculumict.com and click on podcasting.

SMART Sync and mobile technologies

SMART Technologies, the very people that brought you the SMART Board™ interactive whiteboard, have released a piece of software called SMART Sync 2009. SMART Sync enables both the teacher and the pupils to be more productive, maximising lesson time spent using computers effectively.

In the last twelve months or so we have seen a huge rise in the adoption of mobile technologies within the classroom. 'Mobile technology' can mean different things to different people. They range from standard laptops, to the smaller form UMPCs (ultra mobile PCs), mini laptops or as they are more commonly known now - 'netbooks'. The technology even comes in the handier pocket sized PDAs and mobile phones.

As the costs of these technologies decrease, schools are drastically lowering the ratio of computers to pupils. This is excellent news for pupils, giving them a greater level of access to the technology both in terms of mobility, time and frequency. This increase in the use of mobile devices has also enabled teachers to embed ICT further across the curriculum – beyond ICT lessons.

Despite this there is also a perceived 'downside' to using computers as a teaching tool for any extended period of time. It all centres on the ability of the teacher to manage those devices once they enter the classroom. Even for those teachers who are more competent and confident in using the technology, having thirty laptops in a classroom can provide a number of challenges. So what exactly do we mean by being able to manage the computers and how can it have an impact on lessons where computers are an integral part?

SMART Sync 2009 gives all that you would expect from classroom management software, including the ability to manage the computers through real time thumbnail observations of each of the pupils' screens and the ability to lock all the screens to get pupils' attention, at the click of a single button.

Being able to offer guidance to pupils can also be an extremely powerful tool. With SMART Sync 2009, clicking on a button within your browser will not only launch pupils' browsers for them but also send them directly to a website; reducing the time it takes to access long and complicated URLs. You can also offer guidance by taking control of pupils' computers for them. This means you don't have to walk around the class sorting out simple admin problems that pupils may encounter.

Collaboration and the sharing of work is something not traditionally focused on when pupils are working independently on their own laptop and it can be difficult to facilitate this due to the personal nature of the devices. SMART Sync 2009 breaks the mould of traditional classroom management software and allows the pupils to collaborate on any networked laptop.

The new 'Collaborate' tool allows pupils to work together on an assignment in conjunction with the chat function. They work on and submit their own assignment and then work together on the same assignment to hand in a finished piece of work which they have all contributed to and all agree on. The teacher then has all the individual assignments and the collaborative assignment for each of the groups. The 'Chat' facility enables pupils to chat together as a class or a group, with the teacher having control and full view of all conversations, including the ability to save any conversations as a text file.

For more details please visit www.mysmartspaces.co.uk/smartsync and download a FREE 30 day trial of the software.

The logo for SMART Technologies. The word "SMART" is written in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font. A small "TM" trademark symbol is located at the bottom right of the "T". Below "SMART", the word "Technologies" is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.

I Am Learning (www.iamlearning.co.uk)

I am learning is a games-based revision, homework and assessment system for primary and secondary schools; designed to motivate students for longer than traditional methods.

I am learning hosts over 20,000 curriculum linked questions with comprehensive reports to demonstrate pupil progress and support continual improvement; whilst encouraging active involvement from learners, teachers and parents.



What makes I am learning unique?

- Integration with learning platforms
- Access via mobile devices
- Personal interface to provide students with ownership of their environment
- Revolving question bank with a wide range of question styles to challenge all abilities
- Meaningful data and graphical reporting for students, parents and teachers and SLT
- Reward based interface unlocking new games and features as students revise more frequently.

Prize Draw

If you have read this newsletter you are eligible to enter a free prize draw. This half term News Bytes has been sponsored by Challenge CLC. To enter the free prize draw all you have to do is reply to the newsletter by e-mail:- (james.langley@educationbradford.com) with the text - Prize Draw please - Your School Name. Only one entry will be accepted per school. We will e-mail you to confirm if your school is a winner.

The prizes this issue include 3 USB webcams. News Bytes Issue 9 will be published on Friday 23rd October. The focus of the next issue will be 'ICT in the Early Years'.



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Newsletter

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Follow us on Twitter - we are @curriculumict

Our Curriculum ICT Team is committed to supporting schools to help pupils reach their potential in all the National Curriculum subjects which they study and in which they use ICT. The services we can provide are:-

- in-service training sessions for schools on a variety of issues including:- effective use of interactive whiteboards, digital animation, creative use of ICT across the curriculum, effective use of new online content, podcasting etc
- work in schools modelling effective ICT teaching both in their own and other's classrooms
- work with ICT co-ordinators and help them develop their role effectively
- liaise with Curriculum co-ordinators within schools to promote the development of ICT across the curriculum