

News Bytes - Issue 12

Celebrating Success

16th November 2010

Welcome to the 12th edition of News Bytes, this edition is dedicated to celebrating many of the successful ways Bradford schools have used 21st century learning technologies and pedagogies to engage and motivate pupils to raise standards across the region in conjunction with Education Bradford's Curriculum ICT team. Last year was a particularly successful year with record numbers of schools subscribing to our services and attending courses, seminars, workshops and conferences designed to support schools in developing a curriculum that meets the needs of 21st century learners.

Last year a Bradford school finally managed to be crowned Cars – Maths in Motion National Champions, we have reached the last 5 national finals and came very close to winning in 2009 but in 2010 Bankfoot Primary hit the chequered flag in first place. The Curriculum ICT team continues to lead the way regionally and nationally with the effective use of handheld / mobile technologies and this work was

showcased at the popular bMobLe conference in May attended by over 160 people. Last year we worked with schools on several successful handheld projects including two iPod touch projects to support personalised learning with a focus on Literacy and Maths. This year we are working alongside other TLS Primary Learning and Curriculum colleagues on a variety of projects involving new technologies; these include using film and Flipcams to develop Media Literacy skills and a Maths project focused on 'using and applying' through recording and sharing learning on Ipad touch devices. We are also piloting some exciting work on Geocaches using GPS enabled devices to support outdoor learning and further information about ongoing projects and other work the Curriculum ICT team is engaged with can now be found on our blog on the website.



We hope this year is as equally successful as last year and are looking forward to working with schools in Bradford and across the region in further developing a 21st century learning curriculum.



ICT Mark awarded to 3 Bradford Primary Schools

Congratulations to All Saint's CE Primary School, Ilkley, Horton Grange Primary School and Bankfoot Primary School. All three schools have been awarded the prestigious ICT Mark over the last academic year. The ICT Mark is a national accreditation scheme which recognises schools for their achievements in reaching a standard of maturity in their use of technology.

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Cars Maths in Motion

Bankfoot Primary - National KS2 Champions

Over 1,000 schools and 120,000 pupils participated in this year's Cars Maths in Motion challenge. Supported by Dave Trevethick (learning mentor) and Sue Ridsdale (HLTA), Bankfoot started their journey by competing in the Bradford online leagues. After six races, where they finished top of their league (undefeated), they went through to the Bradford finals. The Bradford finals consisted of all the league winners plus play off winners from the Bradford Primary schools. After success in this race, Bankfoot went to the National semi-finals to compete against schools across the country. The top 12 schools qualified to represent their authority at the National Finals (National

Heritage Car Museum in Warwick, Birmingham). Bankfoot had a double celebration as Mr Trevethick also won through to the finals by winning the teachers league. Plans for a journey to Birmingham began to take place.

When the big day arrived it was an early start for the team as they arrived at school at 6am. Tweeting their anxieties and feelings along the way, they arrived in Birmingham to face the biggest race of their life!

After being shown around the conference centre, the adults then had a nail biting hour and a half as the children independently prepared their cars for the race.

After lunch, and a tour around the museum, the children returned to the conference room to watch the races. Starting in 20th place, gradually, lap by lap, the car started to climb up the leaderboard. On lap 41 the excitement was unbearable as Bankfoot's car took the lead. By the end of the 56 laps, Bankfoot had finished first out of all the KS2 and KS3 teams. They are Cars Maths in Motion National KS2 Champions, narrowly finishing 2nd overall to a KS4 school.

The children and staff had a fantastic day.

A big thank you to Jaguar and Brian Richardson for organising the competition.



Playing for Success - Bradford Bulls

45 learners from Bradford Primary Schools have been attending evening sessions at the hi-tech Bradford Bulls Stampede Centre, in the Grattan Stadium in Odsal, to boost Maths and Literacy skills. Playing for Success is a ten week programme which encourages teamwork in a fun and competitive atmosphere.

Learners have been using spreadsheets to solve real-world Maths problems by tackling several elements of the Bradford Bulls business, including the profit or loss of selling tickets, merchandise and refreshments, in a context of having to pay high player salaries and all stadium running costs.

They have also used graphics software to design and produce their own laminated ID cards, created a Photostory of their stadium heritage tour, investigated prices and placed orders via the online and Bull Ring shops and played Maths based 'Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?' games.

Literacy skills have been boosted using keyword Bingo games, rapid response teamwork circle games, poetry writing sessions and using Brain Training on Wii and DS consoles.



Lister Primary hail success of 'Project School' initiative



Pupils in Year 6 at Lister Primary are using new technologies to achieve success in writing thanks to a joint partnership with the Curriculum ICT team. SATS results which followed the three term project demonstrated that the use of new technologies had motivated pupils and improved standards in writing. As a result of the project all targeted groups had made the progress they needed to secure the levels of attainment.

With the support of the curriculum ICT team the school invested in a wide range of new technologies to enhance teaching and learning. This included the purchase of interactive whiteboards, net books, flip cams, digital cameras, visualisers and textease CT software.

In addition to the investment in equipment, the head teacher, SMT and curriculum ICT consultant, Susan Cutsforth, worked collaboratively to formulate a detailed action plan for the targeted Year 6 children. Support was given to planning literacy lessons engaging the use of the new technologies. It was obvious that teachers were becoming more creative with their use of technologies and the children were just absorbing this new motivation for learning.

With other schools in the Bradford area taking on similar projects it is plain to see the positive impact the new technologies have made with learning. Pupils are no longer restricted to the classroom walls for support, they have the opportunity to a more portable way of learning, accessing information anywhere at any time, which over the long term can only benefit students.

On completion of the project the head teacher, Moria Hunt, stated **“One of the priorities behind this project was to make learning exciting and motivating. The children have certainly used the new technologies within our school to further their learning.”** July 2010.



How ICT can support outdoor learning

The Curriculum ICT team are currently launching a very exciting project. We are developing a geocaching day for KS2 classes. Geocaching is a high tech treasure hunt using GPS devices to locate hidden 'treasure chests' within your school's grounds. These caches can contain all sorts of learning activities linked to that year group's creative curriculum theme. The caches are hidden throughout the school grounds before the children arrive and the GPS coordinates of the caches are then shared on all of the devices. Children will be trained about GPS and how they can use the devices to navigate in the first session. They will have the opportunity to traverse through a virtual maze in their playground/field. In the second session the children will be introduced to what a geocache is and how they can find them within their school grounds using the devices. The children will be split into groups and roles for these groups will be assigned. Once the caches have been found the children will open them and find a clue/activity/problem based on their creative curriculum theme that they have to solve back in the classroom. This can be extended at a later date by having the children creating their own geocache trails for younger year groups, parents or other schools. The first live trial run is happening on Monday 15 November. To find out more about geocaching please visit www.bmobile.co.uk - Outdoor Learning - Geocaching.



If you are interested in the Curriculum ICT team running a geocaching day in your school please contact us by e-mailing james.langley@educationbradford.com

Teacher Feature - Blogging at Newhall Park Primary

Ian Tobin (ICT co-ordinator and Yr 3 teacher)

What would I do with a blog? It's a question I have asked myself numerous times in the past few weeks as I have seen them mentioned more and more by both ICT consultants during CPD and educators on Twitter. Well, it was the latter that finally convinced me. Having listened to David Mitchell (@DeputyMitchell), John Sutton (@HGJohn) and James Langley (@Lordlangley73) discuss the merits of blogging and the enthusiasm of the pupils commenting on blogs I decided it was time to find out more. I began by looking at other schools blogs and was surprised to find hundreds of schools already blogging and was amazed by the standard of Literacy used by pupils posting.

Having been convinced, I now needed to set up my own blog. This was much easier than I had first thought. With PrimaryBlogger (<http://primaryblogger.co.uk>), a free service to UK primary schools, I had a simple blog set up in minutes and my first post was live moments later.



The real test came, however, when I posted my first Literacy homework onto the blog and gave out the URL to my class. It was a Friday afternoon and the classroom was quiet as it was coming up towards home time. Instead of the usual moans and groans as I gave out the weekend's homework I was greeted by a stunned silence. Confusion set in even further when they read the tiny piece of paper I had given them and realised it was a URL for a website. I continued to explain that their homework for the weekend was to be completed online. I then introduced them to the blog, showed them the method for commenting and

discussed the e-Safeguarding issues involved. I then took myself off home to a weekend of planning, marking and all those other jobs we, as educators, have to do.

Being the eternal optimist, I decided to have a quick check on the blog later that evening and was pleasantly surprised to find numerous pupils had already commented and had therefore already completed their homework. Checking again on Saturday afternoon revealed another group had visited and posted excellent answers to the questions I had set. By Sunday morning I had a class record for handing in of homework, the whole class, except three, had visited and posted their homework and while reading through their post, and filling in my homework mark book, without sifting through scrappy pieces of paper and asking pupils to please put their name on their work, I noticed that several had been back and added second and even third comments. How many times have your class asked for a second, let alone a third piece of homework?

On Monday morning I showed the blog to our head teacher who was immensely impressed with both the ability of the pupils to actually be blogging and the standard of Literacy used, complex sentences by year 3 pupils. She is now looking at the use of blogs throughout the whole school and I hope my colleagues see the benefits, in fact after school today I have been sat with one of our year six teachers, who read my class blog over the weekend, setting up a blog for her Literacy group to use.

Although it was not Literacy homework night tonight my class begged for me to post them something to do and as I sit here writing this article I am multitasking and moderating comments that have already started coming in.

I strongly recommend looking into both blogging and using Twitter as an educational tool. Blogging is definitely not as difficult as you first think and if you do have problems send me a tweet @narthernlad or tweet one of the people mentioned above who are always happy to help.



Google Teacher Academy

Tim Bleazard (Challenge CLC / Curriculum ICT)

This summer I was lucky enough to be chosen to attend the Google Teacher Academy in London at Google Headquarters. I can safely say it was one of the most exciting and inspiring days in twenty years of teaching. The Google way of working is amazing, especially the part about never being more than 150 ft away from food!

The day ran from 08.00 to 18.30 and apart from a break for lunch we spent the rest of the day watching, listening and note taking whilst lead learners told us how Google applications can be used in education. We had presentations on Google search including wonder wheel, timeline, advanced image searching, squared search, news search book search and real time search. We saw how building your own maps can be used to enhance Literacy and Maths lessons, how Google Earth can enhance lessons using the layers and tours features, and how Google books can build you up a free bookshelf of resources.

The main focus of the day centred around Google apps for education which showed how a school can get email, a calendar, a spreadsheet, presentation creation tool, word processor, drawing tool, music / podcast creator, graphics tool, web site builder for every pupil, all for free. The central message that came back again and again was collaboration. Groups of teachers and students can all work on the same document at the same time from different locations. We heard how students in America take part in projects where they work with other pupils. The main stipulation is that the children are from different schools and collaborate online.

This was utterly mind blowing and I'm sure will eventually be the way we work in schools. I've started some Google apps for education with a couple of schools. If you would like your school to be involved please get in touch by e-mailing t.bleazard@challengeclc.co.uk



BLN update

New Schools

The Bradford Learning Network would like to welcome three new schools who have recently joined the network, Peel Park, Our Lady and St Brendan's and Fagley Primary School. We look forward to working with these schools and helping them to develop the use of the internet in their classrooms.

Procurement of JIT

We have managed to procure a 2 year licence to JIT, the KS1 version of J2E, for all BLN subscribing schools. JIT is a set of online Educational tools for reception to KS2 pupils to encourage them to create on the web in a fun and stimulating way. Training and information on how to access JIT will be sent to schools in due course.

Education City Renewal

We are pleased to announce that we have agreed to extend the EducationCity licence until November 2012. We have also negotiated Homework Licences which will enable access to EducationCity from home through the Bradford Learning Portal. More information on when this will be available will be sent to schools.

Bradford Learning Portal

The Bradford Learning Portal which allows single sign on to BLN resources, automated email account creation in the new Live@edu email system and personalised webfiltering for all users, is currently being rolled out to all BLN schools. School should have received a letter with a guest username and password to the portal as well as a form which needs to be completed and returned before we can set up the automatic account creation. If you would like a copy of this letter or require further information please contact tina.housley@educationbradford.com



Upcoming Curriculum ICT Courses and Events

Enhancing the creative curriculum using images and multimedia

This course is to demonstrate the effective use of ICT to capture, manipulate and present images/video to enhance teaching and learning within the creative curriculum. Throughout the day you will capture images using digital cameras and transfer the images/video to a computer, manipulate these images using simple photo editing packages and use the images within an interactive big book and create a Photo Story 3 presentation. In addition you will import video into a simple video editing package and create a simple film sequence.

Challenge CLC Thursday 2 December 09.00 - 15.00

Mathematics Workshop - Developing the 21st century Numeracy curriculum

This workshop is aimed at Numeracy subject leaders and will focus on using appropriate technology to develop a Numeracy curriculum that meets the needs of the 21st century learner. The workshop will include an overview of appropriate digital content available to schools and then focus on engaging and developing pupils skills using suitable technologies. The session will allow staff to access a variety of simple to use resources that are freely available to the majority of Bradford schools. This workshop is **free** to all schools subscribing to the curriculum ICT 2 star or above support option

Challenge CLC Tuesday 18 January 09.00 - 12.00 or Greenhead CLC Wednesday 19 January 09.00 - 12.00

Embedding control technology across the curriculum with Scratch

According to Ofsted, control technology is an area of the ICT curriculum that Primary schools often find difficult to deliver effectively. Scratch is a free piece of software that allows children to use control commands to create their own interactive stories, animations, games, music and art. Children can then share their creations on the web quickly and simply. This allows children to use simple programming skills with Scratch to demonstrate learning and understanding across the curriculum in an exciting and dynamic way. This course is aimed at teachers of year 4, 5 and 6 children who want to use ICT creatively across the curriculum or who want an easy and exciting way to deliver the control elements of the ICT National Curriculum.

Challenge CLC Thursday 20 January 09.00 - 15.00

An intermediate course to making effective use of the SMART IWB

This course is for teachers and teaching assistants who have basic skills with the smart board but wish to make more effective use of utilising the board for effective teaching. The course focuses on inserting copyright free media into the SMARTboard software and personalising the media gallery for more effective use within teaching. Other skills taught will include hotspotting, hyperlinks and layering. We will concentrate on using techniques / resources outlined to support teaching and learning in Literacy, Numeracy and Science.

Challenge CLC Thursday 27 January 09.00 - 15.00

Safeguarding / E-safety CEOP 'Thinkuknow' training

The Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre is dedicated to eradicating the sexual abuse of children. CEOP provide materials to support the online safeguarding of children through their Thinkuknow website and this full day training session will help the school engage and empower children, young people, parents and the community through information and education and give the delegate access to the materials on the website. Please note that the session will be run by a CEOP trained Ambassador and that any staff attending will need to provide a valid CRB certificate on the day. All attendees will need to register on the Thinkuknow website prior to the event

<http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

Challenge CLC Thursday 03 February 09.00 - 15.00



An advanced course to making effective use of the SMART IWB

This course is relevant to any teachers who are using the Smart IWB and Notebook software but do not feel they are making the most of the resource to impact positively on teaching and learning. There will be a skills focus on how to use hide & reveal techniques, embed video & sound, create interactive content, find, manipulate & manage images and resources, use tables, zoom and spotlight tools, hyperlink to websites, resources and other pages as well as accessing and evaluating online content and third party software / resources. We will concentrate on using the techniques / resources outlined to support teaching and learning in Literacy, Numeracy and Science.

Challenge CLC Thursday 10 February 09.00 - 15.00

Registration

Registration for all curriculum ICT courses and workshops must be completed online at www.curriculumict.com. Note registration closes one week prior to the course being held. This year we have also introduced a **text reminder service** which will enable you to receive updates on courses you have registered for straight to your mobile. Please provide your mobile number when registering for any course should you wish to receive reminders in this way. Courses and workshops are £150 per delegate. Please note 48 hours notice is required should you require to cancel your attendance on a course.

Date for your diary

The 3rd annual bMobLe (Bradford Mobile Learning) conference is to be held on Thursday 16 June 2011. This popular event is returning to The Abundant Life Conference Centre in Bradford and will prove to be as exciting and inspiring as it has been over the last two years. The theme of this year's conference is "Creating Creativity" and will focus on how a school can use ICT to engage and enhance their creative curriculums. There will be numerous breakouts led by teachers, children, consultants and senior leaders. More details will be confirmed on www.bmobile.co.uk before the end of this half term.



Curriculum ICT Team

Newsletter

Future House
Bolling Road
Bradford
BD4 7EB

Phone: 01274385844

Mobile: 07961213618

E-mail: james.langley@educationbradford.com

www.curriculumict.com

www.bmobile.co.uk

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
- 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