

Summer 2006

ICT News @ Brent

- Welcome to the first edition of the ICT newsletter from the Brent ICT Team
- We would welcome your comments and feedback. If you have any suggestions for articles please e-mail ictteam@brent.lgfl.net

Win a USB Memory Stick!

Can you think of a really catchy name for our newsletter?

E-mail us with your suggestions and you could win a memory stick. Closing date for applications: **Friday 9th June.**

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STOP PRESS

Date for Brent ICT Conference for Headteachers
Wednesday 1st November
Barnaby Blaine is back!!
 See Brent site for more info

St Mary Magdalen RC Junior School is at the forefront of using information and communications technology to enhance their work – and that is official.

St Mary Magdalen is one of the first schools in the UK to receive the prestigious new ICT Mark. The ICT Mark is awarded by Becta, the Government's lead agency for ICT in education, and recognises the success that the school has in developing a strategic approach to its use of ICT across the whole school.

St Mary Magdalen was one of just 20 schools asked to pilot Becta's self-review framework. The framework helps schools create and implement plans for ensuring they use ICT effectively. As part of this pilot scheme, St Mary Magdalen had to be rigorously assessed by an independent external assessor on their whole school approach to ICT from leadership and vision

through to learning and teaching in the classroom.

Neil McLean, Executive Director Educational Practice, Becta said:

"St Mary Magdalen thoroughly deserves this accolade, the ICT Mark. They clearly demonstrate how important it is to take a holistic approach to using ICT in a school. By doing this, their investment in new technologies has contributed to improvements in learning. The ICT Mark based on the Becta self-review framework requires schools ensure their key structures, processes and boundaries enable ICT to support personalising learning."

The New ICT Mark

The ICT Mark is a new quality mark, awarded by Becta and developed in partnership with Naace. It is an optional accreditation for schools who can demonstrate high achievement in their use of ICT across the whole school.

The ICT Mark is based on Becta's self-review framework, a tool specifically designed for schools to take a global view of how ICT is being used across their organisations, and provide a benchmark from which schools can establish a clear path for future development.

The self-review framework has been developed in conjunction with school and college leaders Becta and other Government partners, and is based on clear research, together with evidence from a successful pilot project.

The **ICT Mark** is available from 1st April 2006. The first port of call for any school interested in the ICT Mark has to be the **Self-review Framework**. This is now live and accessible via <http://matrix.becta.org.uk>, and consists of a matrix tool for each of the eight elements that make up the framework. Within each element are a number of strands, and within the strands are aspects divided into 5 levels, from 5 (not started yet) to 1 (e-enabled). A school will need to work through these matrices, and the threshold for the ICT Mark is indicated on the matrix.



SEN Conference



ICT had quite an impact at The SEN and Inclusion Conference on the 16th March. . The conference focus was Promoting Positive Partnerships. Nitin Lakhu, the SEN ICT teacher from Grove Park Special School, ran a workshop on 'Using ICT to Support Children with Special Education Needs' and introduced Brent Access to Inclusive Technology project. The workshop was an informative overview of the hardware and software being used in Grove Park Special School. Workshop participants found the workshop interesting and responded well to Nitin's passion for his area of expertise.

Grove Park also had a stand in the Market Hall showing some of the hardware used in their school with children on hand to answer any questions. The highlight of the conference was an Arab dance performed by a group of children from Grove Park with the support of their music teacher.

Software Updates

New Smartboard software is now available

The long awaited SMART Board software 9.5 is now available. You can register to download or request a CD from the Steljes site www.steljes.co.uk or you can download straight from the www.smartboard.co.uk

New features:

- audio and video support with Notebook software
- searchable Gallery
- increased curriculum content with over 500 new images, audio, video, Macromedia Flash® and Notebook software lesson activities.

New Version of Easiteach just released

Easiteach is software for the interactive whiteboard that can be used on any type of board. The new version includes additions and enhancements to the multi media bank, voting capability, easier calibration from within Easiteach, enhanced backgrounds and a new bin tool. The upgrade price is £59 per licence. For more information visit www.rm.com

2Connect - 2Simple

2Connect is a concept mapping and planning tool which will help children organise their thoughts individually or collaboratively on a network. It's a simple way to put ideas on a page.

- **Concept Map:** Add words, sound and images.
- **Sound Recorder:** Record and play back your own voice while working with any program to help support and guide your writing.
- **Collaborative Tool:** Work on the same concept map at the same time and see ideas instantly appear on all the other machines in real time.
- **Word Bank:** Just link to any writing program, click on a word and it's inserted into the text.
- **Planning Tool:** Export into 2Create and the multimedia project is created automatically.

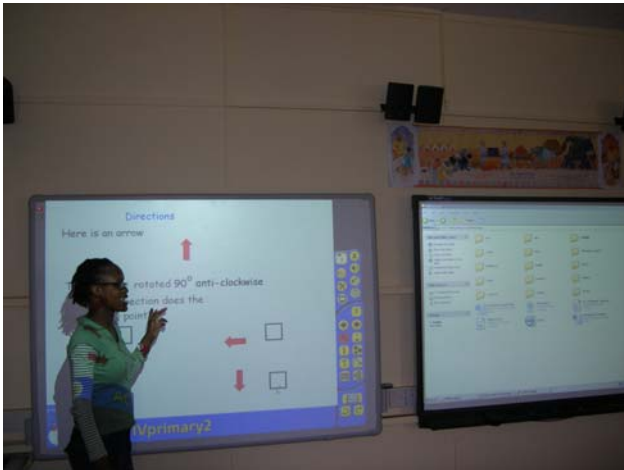
For more information please visit <http://www.2simple.com>

DISPOSAL OF ICT EQUIPMENT

There are new regulations regarding the disposal of ICT equipment which will have a major impact on schools and their procedures for disposing of equipment. Please follow the link from the Brent LGFL site for further information.

Interactive Whiteboard Pilot

Most schools in Brent now have at least one or two Interactive Whiteboards (IWBs). Some schools even have them in every classroom! But are teachers using them effectively to enhance learning and teaching?



An increasing amount of literature reports the potential of the IWB to enhance learning and teaching. However, despite this and a growth in IWB access, it may be the case that most IWBs are not being used to their full potential.

The key point to note is that the IWB is just another teaching tool in the classroom. Its potential

to enhance learning and teaching depends upon the teacher using it. This has implications for the training which teachers may need to receive in order to support their effective use of IWBs.

In order to address these issues, two Brent ICT Teacher Advisers, Michelle Turner and Niketa Changela, have been involved in a pilot

project. This project aimed to support teachers in developing their pedagogical use of an Interactive Whiteboard and improve IWB training in Brent. As this project was part of a Masters dissertation for Brunel University it was closely monitored and evaluated at each stage.

The project involved a total of ten teachers from ten Brent Schools, across key stages one and two. Each teacher attended six training sessions. The teacher involved worked closely with a colleague to cascade their training.

A key aspect of this training was to allow teachers time to plan IWB lessons to use with their children the following week. Hands on opportunities were given during these sessions to explore and create

resources, with the support of the advisers.

The teachers involved have been positive about the effectiveness of the training in supporting them to develop their use of their IWB.

We are looking forward to offering the same opportunity for teachers in Brent next year. If you are interested in your school being involved in in this exciting project, please contact Kim Beat at the Centre for Staff Development.

For further information please visit www.brent.lgfl.net – IWB Project

London Beijing School Partnerships



During May half term a number of schools in Brent will be visiting China to take part in an exciting project. This project aims to work collaboratively with partner schools in Beijing to share educational expertise. The five schools involved are: Fryent, JFS, Malorees Junior, Oakington Manor and St Mary Magdalen's. Two teachers from each school will have the opportunity to teach in a Beijing classroom, exchange professional development and engage in discussions about teaching and learning. Each Brent school will continue to work in partnership with their Beijing link school on returning to the UK. There will be further updates in the next edition of this newsletter. For further information please visit: www.brent-china-project.brent.lgfl.net

Brent Teacher News

This will be a regular feature which will highlight the achievements of individual teachers in ICT. We start off with the following:

Becoming an Advanced Skills Teacher (AST)

Ophelia Vanderpuye from Oakington Manor Primary school has just been appointed as an Advanced Skills Teacher for ICT and shares her experiences below

When I first made the decision to apply to become an AST, I was expecting an easy ride, thinking that filling in a form and a classroom observation would be the long and short of the process. I was wrong. The whole process started with filling in the application form with six standards to be met.

On completion of the application form, an interview was arranged by the Local Authority to determine whether the candidates could be supported by them. When the interview was over I started working on getting my portfolio of evidence together. It was approximately three weeks from the interview to the final assessment, so I had a lot of work to do.

The final part to becoming an AST was the assessment of the six standards by an independent assessor. This assessment took a day to complete.

It consisted of: an interview with the head teacher and the applicant, interviews with parents and pupils, a two lesson observation of teaching and feedback to the candidate and the head teacher.

I must admit, I really enjoyed the final assessment as it gave me an opportunity to perform and do what I know I do best. I was pleasantly surprised in the final feedback at some of the things the children said about me. It's amazing what is important to children. Something you may think of as being insignificant is completely the thing that makes you a good teacher in their eyes.

I would strongly recommend anyone thinking of applying to become an AST to do so. Admittedly, the process is very hard work but worth it in the end to have that recognition you deserve.

Ophelia Vanderpuye

Course News

Course Title: Using ICT to Support Children with Special Educational Needs

Course Base: Preston Manor CLC

Dates: 8th June, 15th June and 29th June

Time: 16.30-18.30

Course Organisers: John Gallaway, Sarah Hoyle, Ayshen Moustafa, Alison Woodward

Dates and Times:

Session 1: Universal tools and literacy – including scaffolding writing with MSWord, and creating multi-linear texts with PowerPoint, Thursday 8th June 16:30 to 18:30.

Session 2: Targeted tools for literacy – using software such as Clicker5, 2Create a Story and ClozePro. Thursday 15th June, 16:30 to 18:30.

Session 3: Specialist tools for literacy – including more specialist uses of Clicker5, Writing with Symbols and Penfriend. Thursday 29th June 16:30 to 18:30.

Please contact Ayshen Moustafa via email if you would like to book on any or all of these courses. Maximum of 2 per school.

Useful Websites



www.poissonrouge.com

Great website for Early Years. There are hundreds of activities for children to explore. Children can explore on a computer or on the interactive whiteboard.



<http://www.amathsdictionaryforkids.com/maths/dictionary.html>

Maths dictionary

