



ICT Curricular Team

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Refresh Programme

The ICT Officers completed the Primary School laptop refresh in December. They replaced 800 Apple iBooks with PC laptops. We have now replaced around 1500 computers in the Primary schools over the last 18 months.

The secondary schools had 400 PCs replaced in the summer. We are currently replacing the last of the 4-year-old laptops in the secondary schools. This means that most of the computers in the secondary schools will be less than 3 years old.

Alistair Campbell (Team Leader Desktop Services)

Adapted Digital Exams – East Lothian pilot

Candidates with additional support needs sitting SQA exams, currently have access to a variety of assessment arrangements which allow them to demonstrate their skills and knowledge e.g. reader, scribe or extra time.

A new assessment arrangement has recently become available. This gives candidates an opportunity to sit digitally adapted question papers provided by the SQA. Candidates with difficulty accessing a standard exam paper as a result of visual, physical, reading or writing difficulties, can now insert answers directly on to the question/answer paper on screen and use speech technology to have text read out.

East Lothian secondary schools are piloting adapted digital exams with a number of candidates this session. CALL Scotland, SQA, East Lothian ICT officers and Inclusion & Equality section are supporting this development.

It is anticipated that Adapted Digital Exam formats will be available to increasing numbers of East Lothian SQA candidates in future.

For further information on Assessment Arrangements see www.sqa.org.uk

Linda Gaughan (Inclusion and Equality Officer)

Looking for an E-pen pal in USA?



Are you interested in how ICT is

being used in schools in America? A teacher in Bel Air, Maryland is looking to exchange information and flipcharts with a teacher in East Lothian. For more information, email Janice.black@prometheanworld.com



Go to

<http://sites.google.com/a/edubuzz.org/guitarhero09> for ideas, lesson plans, support and advice on how to run your 2010 Guitar Hero project.

Canon

If you wish to

log a fault regarding the Canon equipment contact the IT Help Desk by email ithelpdesk@eastlothian.gov.uk and include the text "Canon printer" in the subject line of the email.

Further Canon article on Page 4

Asus Netbooks at King's Meadow

In March 2009 a pilot project using ASUS EeePC netbooks began in the school. This involved providing every child in primary five with a netbook that had the ability to connect to both the school network and home Internet. The purpose of the pilot was to look at how this increased access to network resources would benefit learning and teaching and to assess the usability and reliability of these devices for school and home. The initial findings of the pilot were very positive in terms of their impact on learning and teaching, which fact was recognized by HMIe during the recent inspection of the school.

Teachers found multiple benefits in using these devices, including increased motivation of learners and the level of engagement they had in tasks that involved the use of the netbooks. The nature of the pilot meant that staff and pupils were learning collaboratively and this encouraged pupils to teach each other new skills as well as allowing more confident children to share skills with staff.

The netbooks have also been an excellent resource in terms of developing aspects of "Curriculum for Excellence".



They promote child centered learning and the children have been able to take part in many different research tasks determined by their own interests.

The children's confidence in carrying out Internet research and presenting their findings has also increased considerably. Through the pilot the children have learned how to use on-line collaboration tools such as Google Applications that allowed them to share their work with their peers [as well as their teacher!] and be given feedback.

Pupil feedback indicated that they greatly enjoyed using the devices as part of their learning. Previously, the children had to share computers either through the use of timetabled laptops or the use of the computer suite. The ease of access to their very own netbook allowed the children greater spontaneity in the use of technology in the classroom. The children also commented on the variety of approaches to their learning that these devices have allowed.

The netbooks have followed the children on from primary five into primary six where they continue to take similar approaches to using them in the classroom. The hope is now to develop further the way that these devices are used for homework tasks. To improve on-line security a "firewall" was recently installed on each

netbook. This will reduce concerns in situations where it is difficult to monitor fully how they are being used.

Overall the pilot has been a huge success and has encouraged the children to be responsible, confident and independent in their learning. We look forward to having further success in using this technology as an integral part of learning and teaching at King's Meadow Primary School.

Claire Swanston (P6 Class Teacher)

English as an Additional Language: new web resource



<http://edubuzz.org/eal>

If you're working with EAL learners, why not visit East Lothian outreach teacher Janet Storey's new EAL Google Site? Janet's aim is to provide class teachers

with advice, information and food for thought, so that they can meet the needs of EAL learners appropriately. You'll find her site at <http://edubuzz.org/eal>

Contents include:

- Links to online advice for all teachers and managers
- Classroom Strategies
- Resources in Polish and other languages
- Pupils with continuing difficulties
- ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages)

Broadcast live from anywhere with mobile video streaming

Imagine you had your own outside broadcast TV kit, capable of transmitting to the world – or even just your classes - at the push of a button. What learning opportunities would that open up?

As you've probably guessed – and your students will know - that's now a reality.

In November's Newsletter we saw how Musselburgh Grammar's MGStv used the Twitcam video streaming service to broadcast their Rocktober concert (<http://twitcam.com/3zrd>).

Now that mobile Internet service is improving in East Lothian, it's becoming possible to broadcast video and audio from a 3G mobile phone straight to the web in the same way. It's often possible for your audience to interact, and your video's automatically stored online for future access, just as with YouTube.

We've done some initial tests in the office using Bambuser.com on a Nokia "S60" mobile, which you can see here: <http://bit.ly/bambuser>. Please get in touch if you'd like to find out more.

ActivInspire

ActivInspire 1.3 is a software upgrade to current ActivPrimary. Unlike some upgrades, which offer marginal improvements and adjustments, ActivInspire looks and feels quite different to ActivPrimary and it's a far superior product. It's fun, versatile and user friendly. For those who are using ActivPrimary proficiently, you will be delighted with the new features on ActivInspire 1.3. And for those who are building up their knowledge, the new software will simplify the learning process and allow you to use your interactive whiteboard to it's fullest potential.

Why don't you sign up for a training session with Promethean's own expert, Janice Black? (email staffdevecs@eastlothian.gov.uk to book) She can talk you through the changes, demonstrate how valuable your interactive whiteboard can be as a creative, teaching tool and give you the confidence to use the new software.

Love Your Whiteboard / Activinspire

Mon 8 Feb @ Innerwick	ECS384 (now full)
Thurs 25 Feb @ Kings Meadow	ECS385
Wed 3 March @ Cockenzie Primary	ECS386
Tues 9 March @ Campie Primary	ECS387
Mon 15 March @ Law Primary	ECS388

Some schools already have ActivInspire 1.3 installed. The icon should appear in your Applications folder. If you don't have it, please email ithelpdesk@eastlothian.gov.uk and it will be installed on teachers' laptops.

For full information and helpful tips, http://www.prometheanplanet.com/upload/pdf/ActivInspire_ActivClassroom_20091112062644.pdf

Find out more about EducationCity.com



EducationCity.com is a subscription-based web resource is used by 3 East Lothian secondaries and seven primaries. Four primaries have completed between 3000 and

20000 activities on it over the past 18 months, so it's clearly proving useful. If you'd like to find out more about it, we have two opportunities coming up.

Expert-led training session: Existing users can catch up with new developments with Jessica Edmonds from EducationCity at a hands-on session at Knox Food Court on Friday, 19th March from 1pm to 3.30pm. Prospective new users are also welcome. Places are limited, so please book via Suzanne Todd (stodd@eastlothian.gov.uk, 01620 827130)

Free 2-month trial: All East Lothian schools will have unrestricted access to the full service from 1st February until 31st March 2010 on a trial basis. Each school will receive a login. There's a 25% introductory discount for any schools that subscribe during the trial and a 10% discount for existing subscribers who'd like to add to or extend their access.

Useful Websites



<http://www.google.co.uk/intl/en/schools/index.html>

This Google site offers free resources for teachers to help use Google tools such as Google Maps, Earth, Images and News in Geography, History and Citizenship at both Primary and Secondary Levels.



<http://www.starfall.com/n/short-a/sa/load.htm?f>

An excellent site for phonics, spelling patterns and early reading. It has clear, bright graphics and engaging stories, which makes it ideal for whole class activities using the interactive whiteboard.



<http://www.childrensuniversity.manchester.ac.uk/>

Not only does the site provide top class resources but it gives pupil an insight into the university and how the work they are doing in schools could link to future careers. You will find valuable interactive, on-line learning in Science, History, Art and Design, Literacy most suited to Second and Third Level pupils.

IT Security



You may recently have had an email reminding you that you shouldn't purchase new computer software / systems or allow 3rd party suppliers to connect to your pc without first informing the IT Section or the central QIO team. Here's a reminder on why you shouldn't do this.

- **So why does the IT Section/QIO team need to know about every piece of software I want to install on my schools PCs?**

Many free software packages on the web install spyware (software that reports back surfing habits/other personal information), adware (software that creates pop-up ads based on what web sites you visit), or even Trojans (software that installs remote control or remote attacking software on your machine). This type of thing can be used to hack the council's network.

There could also be copyright and licensing issues – a lot of free software is only licensed for home use.

Another problem is even if you purchase the software from a reputable company and have all the relevant licences there could still be conflicts with software already installed on your PC. What could then happen is your 'officially bought' software stops running. (*Imagine if this was to happen with the School Management System Phoenix*). The problem could then radiate out to the rest of your schools PCs and before you know it your new software has brought down the all schools networks. Do you really want to be responsible for that?

If you let the IT Section know in the early stages of looking at new software then we get time to test the software beforehand and reduce the risk of all of the above happening.

- **A company wants to connect to my PC to show me a demo of their software. I'm really interested in this so why shouldn't I let them connect?**

By allowing this to happen you are basically giving an untrusted 3rd party access to any data or systems on your pc. From this connection the 3rd party easily access the whole of your school network. They could also install spyware etc without your knowledge.

Never allow any 3rd party company to connect to your PC or any part of your school network. If you need a demo contact IT and we can arrange for this to happen securely.

- **A 3rd party company wants me to send them a copy of my Phoenix data. We've never used this company before but surely this isn't a problem?**

As data owners your school has a duty to protect our children's and others personal data under the Data protection Act. As we don't know this company then we have no way of

knowing what they will do with our data and how secure the data will be when on their systems. Every new company who wants access to our data needs to be checked thoroughly and has to sign up to our Non-Disclosure and other policies before they get any access to our data.

The Information Commissioners office (ICO) now has powers to fine councils hefty sums of money if they are found to be 'careless' with their data. Some have already been fined. The ICO are also looking at jail terms in the future.

Remember you should never pass on confidential school data to a 3rd party.

If you need any further advice on the above or any other aspect of IT & Information Security please contact

IT Helpdesk, email ithelpdesk@eastlothian.gov.uk Tel: **01620 827224**

Or email the IT Security Officer
itsecurity@eastlothian.gov.uk

Sonya Buczyn (IT Security Officer)

Canon Canon Printers

The PrintSmart project is a Council-approved initiative to reduce the £600k per year financial and environmental costs of printing and copying. The project has set some stretching targets, which will deliver cost and carbon savings as follows:

- 40% reduction in **paper** (from 60,000 reams per annum to 36,000 reams);
- 30% reduction in the overall **copy/print volume** (from 24m per annum to 14.4m)
- 50% reduction in cost of **printer cartridges** (from £150,000 per annum to £75,000)

186 new Canon Multi-Function Printers (MFPs) have been delivered and installed during December, which is a significant achievement. The second phase of the project is due to be start in February, which is the removal and re-siting of printers. On average 50% - 75% of printers are being removed, in order to achieve the efficiencies required. This phase is likely to take up to 3 months to complete. Meetings are taking place with secondary Head Teachers in January to agree on their final print/copy designs. Primary Schools will be scheduled towards the end of this second phase.

If you would like to know more about the new Canon devices, including money saving tips and trouble-shooting skills then you can volunteer to be a PrintSmart champion. Please contact procurement@eastlothian.gov.uk There is a website created especially for East Lothian Council by Canon <https://customer.canon.co.uk/elc> which has training guides and other information.



**Julie Caughey (Finance Manager,
Financial Services)**