

East Lothian Education

Curriculum ICT Newsletter – March 2015

A brief summary of a fast-changing world. Need more details? Please get in touch.

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Contact Lorna MacLennan (lmacennan@eastlothian.gov.uk) for Glow or Google Apps account details and password resets.

Ormiston Primary – Alien Attack!

The innovative  #projectstarfall project, dreamt up on Monday and implemented on Wednesday, engaged two classes of learners in collaborative reporting, via blogs and Twitter, on a “War of the Worlds” style alien invasion of Ormiston. Parents and friends were engaged to stage, and report on, aspects of the “invasion”. It’s a good example of how the technologies we now have can be used to take learning experiences well beyond the classroom. We appreciate projects like this can need additional support, and will always try to help if we can.

Watch the day unfold... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JvpdKeg5Pg8>

Listen to the learners’ call with “Doug Dreyfuss, UFO hunter”: <http://bit.ly/ufohunter>

Explore the 15 “news agency” blogs used: <http://www.edubuzz.org/redjumpernews/>

Darren Blyth Joins Schools ICT Support Team

New face but familiar voice **Darren Blyth** is now out in schools attending to logged calls. Darren has years of experience on the IT Service Desk, so brings broad experience of our systems to the role.

Catriona Ward’s maternity leave has been covered by the other five ICT officers. The workload of all the ICT Officers is huge and there may be a delay in getting to your call. IT apologise in advance for this inconvenience.

Buying IT hardware or software

Please remember that all hardware and software should be bought through IT. Email ITServiceDesk@eastlothian.gov.uk with your school ledger code. Items not bought through IT will not be prioritised for set up / installation and can result in very long lead in times for them being able to be used.

Schools Google Chrome Browser Gets an Update

Google Chrome is a popular alternative to the Internet Explorer browser which is ideal for use with eduBuzz Google Apps and WordPress.



Chrome V40 will be installed shortly to replace the current version.

Unfortunately IT can't do this automatically here: the old version has to be removed before the new version is installed.

When the old version is removed, of course, its Chrome icon will disappear: don't panic! A restart (that you're not prompted for) is required. The new version's icon will appear once the computer is next logged on from start up.

Glow Meet Connections Dropping: Investigations Continue

Recent **Glow Meet / Glow TV** events across Scotland have been affected by connections dropping, affecting learning.

- Please have contingency plans in place if you plan to use it meantime.
- We're working with Education Scotland staff and the new supplier of the service to get this resolved as soon as we can.



New Glow Blog and Wiki Services Launched

- **Glow Blogs** are now on WordPress version, 4.1, the same as eduBuzz blogs.
- You'll find Glow Blogs at <http://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk>.



- **Glow Wikis** now use Wikispaces, a popular wiki system with teachers.
- Glow Wikis are now live at <http://wikis.glowscotland.org.uk>.
- Try them out at <https://sandbox.wikis.glowscotland.org.uk/home>.

Contact Lorna MacLennan (lmacennan@eastlothian.gov.uk) for Glow account details and password resets.

InCAS Primary Assessments: Avoid the Web-Based Option



InCAS, like ePIPS, offers an attractive, completely web-based option. Unfortunately, many ELC schools have found that this option can't be relied on. Although it will sometimes be fine, intermittent failures can waste a lot of time.

- The **non-web option** is consistently reliable and is now recommended.
- Although that requires manual upload of assessment data, it is likely to be a much quicker and consistent process overall.

“Connected Learning” Wi-Fi Network: Installation Starting

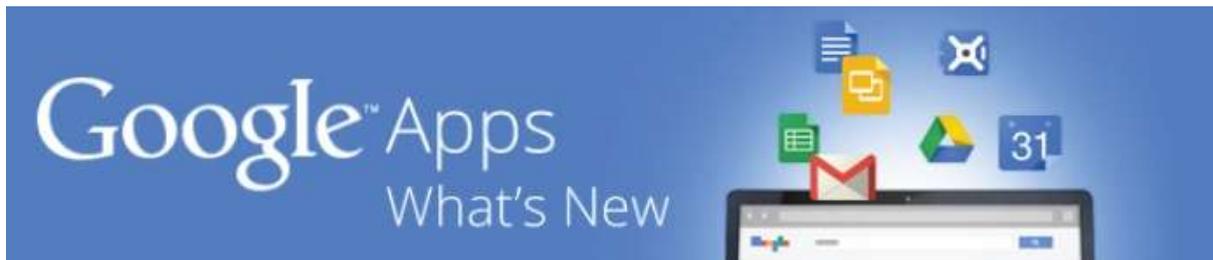


As part of our Education ICT strategy and our commitment to improving access to web sites and services we are in the final operational stages of rolling out open (but filtered) wireless networks in the six high schools and initially two primary schools.

This will be called the “**Connected Learning**” Wi-Fi network and students, staff and school guests will be able to attach their own devices (BYOD) to this network for teaching and learning purposes. School-managed devices, such as cameras, e-readers and tablets, will also be able to use it.

Schools will be kept posted with updated information via the Education ICT blog on Edubuzz, <http://www.edubuzz.org/eduictnews>. If you have any questions, please contact Shirley Lawson.

What's New in eduBuzz Google Apps?



- Google's monthly newsletter is available on-line here. <http://goo.gl/5wVU4r>
- There's also a PDF version here: <http://goo.gl/Ms0syp> (3.6MB, 10 pages)
- Docs, Sheets and Slides now [have their own icons](#) in the App Launcher.
- Sheets now offer [protected ranges](#), so you can, for example, share with classes to gather data in some columns without the students being able to change everything.
- Sheets can now have [logos or images added to frozen sections](#) to make them look more attractive.

New Mobile Apps for Google Classroom

- There's now a new [Classroom mobile app](#) for iOS and Android. With that, students and teachers can:
 - Snap a photo: Right from the assignment page in the mobile app, student can [snap a photo](#) and attach it to their assignment.
 - Share from other apps: Students can also easily [attach](#) images, PDFs and web pages from other apps to their assignments.



The app offers **offline caching**: Class streams and assignment information are automatically cached every time you open the app with an Internet connection, so that you can see them when you don't have a connection.

Exploring Google Hangouts

- Initial testing of Google Hangouts has started with the aim of enabling convenient multi-way internal and external web conferencing in East Lothian schools.
- Google Hangouts include chat, voice and up to 15-way, Skype-like, web conferencing.
- Learn more here: <http://learn.googleapps.com/hangouts>



- In response to demand from teachers, the main features are now available for use by all Google Apps for Education users.
- Some [galleries](#), museums and others now offer Hangout link-ups.

Using Google Sites for P7 E-portfolios

- Private eduBuzz Google Sites are proving a popular way of creating simple on-line P7 Profiles with little more than word processing skills.
- Site templates are being used to pre-populate new Sites.
- See templates at myp7profile.edubuzz.org and dunbarp7profile.edubuzz.org.

Google Apps Accounts Management

- Data from deleted accounts can now be migrated to new owners, e.g. where staff have left.

Stronger Security for Google Accounts

- The security of Google accounts can be improved with two-factor authentication: you need to know your password, and have your phone to receive a code by SMS, to log on at a new computer. It won't ask for the code again for a month. <https://www.google.com/landing/2step/>
- Personal email accounts are very attractive to identity thieves and fraudsters and this provides a means of teaching, and modelling, effective protection.

ICT support for pupils with Additional Support Needs



Ivona MiniReader is a free assistive software which will allow any highlighted text to be read out loud. This is an incredibly useful tool for a dyslexic learner struggling to read. Read the blog post [here](#) on the Support for All blog on Edubuzz.

We have purchased an authority license for [Penfriend XL](#) predictive text software which enables it to be installed on all school computers. Students requiring this type of support will find Penfriend XL easy to use and can choose the option of hearing the choice of words read out. This will be available after the Easter break.

AVMi Projector Maintenance

Call AVMi on 0845 26 26 600 to report any faults / problems with your interactive whiteboard or projector. East Lothian Council has a contract with AVMi so the engineer call out charge is free.

Preston Lodge Explore Innovative “Airhead for Schools”

- As more learning activities can be performed on-line, and the number of available tools proliferates, teachers are looking at easy ways to share sets of links, and more, with classes.
- Airhead (<http://airhead.io>) is an innovative web-based system designed to solve this problem which integrates well with Google Apps for Education. In January it won a BETT Award for Innovation.
- Preston Lodge are currently trying it out, keeping East Lothian up to date with a leading edge development. Please get in touch if you'd like to know more.



E-Safety

The E-Safety Forum (East and Midlothian) has been set up to create an E-Safety Action Plan for young people. There is a great concern that children and young people are taking risks online and that education on ‘Responsible Use of the internet’ is vital from Early Years. This E-Safety Forum has representatives from Education, Social Work, Police, Health, Parent Councils, Community Learning and Development and young people themselves.



There are many good teaching resources, games, videos and support documentation on CEOP's [Thinkuknow](#) website

What support do you need?

We are always keen to know what kind of ICT support / help / training / advice you are looking for. Please get in touch with questions or suggestions – we will be delighted to chat with you.

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