



Education ICT Newsletter

5th December 2008

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Christmas

The Christmas page is back at http://www.educationict.org.uk/christmas_page.htm

This year there are also links to Christmas activities from the ICTOPUS website.

Registering free with this site provides teachers with lots of resources and ideas throughout the year. <http://www.ictopus.org.uk/> Highly recommended.



GLOW SBC Update

Two secondary schools are taking their first steps with Glow in the New Year. A few key staff in Kelso and Selkirk High Schools will trail blaze Glow provisioning for SBC in January. Etrick and Yarrow Primary schools will be the first primary pupils to use Glow. We look forward to piloting with them and their teachers, before commencing with further primary schools.

Secondary Science, Tech Studies and Home Economics teachers all had the opportunity of a Glow demonstration from Bruce Murray on the November inservice day. We anticipate that

Glow will become a fairly major feature of the curriculum landscape over the next 18 months. Information on what is happening with Glow on the national scene is at <http://www.glowscotland.org.uk/index.asp> and descriptions of how some other teachers are currently using Glow are at :-

<http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/glowscotland/sharingpractice/index.asp> Local information is at <http://www.educationict.org.uk/glow.htm>

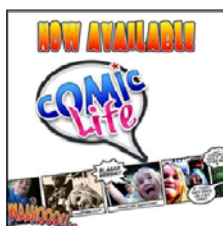
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SMARTNotebook version 10

The Network Support team are almost ready to begin rolling out the latest version of SMART Notebook Software during January and February 2009. The 'package' is very large and the Network team will need to liaise with schools about the best times of day/ week to roll-out this resource, and also do some network maintenance work. SMART Notebook 10 has many additional features as well as ready-made flash activities in the Gallery. There are lots of printable Help Sheets, as well as 'Two minute tutorials' on this site. <http://smarttech.com/trainingcenter/material.asp> If you are already a SMARTboard user there is not much more to learn, but time to spend familiarising with the new features would be recommended. There are CPD events available in February. (See below) Staff can also request to have some input on SMARTboard or Airline Slate during their RICCT or non-contact time. Please contact [Liz Marroni](#) directly.

"Comic Life" (Deluxe)



SBC have purchased a regional licence for this product for all primary and secondary schools. There is no cost to schools. This software has been rolled out centrally to all

schools by the Network Team and is found inside 'Curriculum Resources' on the Primary cc3 Networks. The program allows pupils and teachers to create comics, picture albums, how-to guides and more. The easy-to-use interface integrates with any digital photo collection. Drag in pictures, captions, lettering text and speech balloons. Pupils can use a webcam within Comic Life to make a comic on the spot. Please get back in touch with the Network Team if you do not wish this software to be available on your network. However we would strongly

recommend that before using photos, these should be re-sized. [\(See item below\)](#)

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Staff Development and CPD Opportunities Jan – April 2009

The following CPD events are planned for January – April 2009. Please apply through the CPD Online Directory, at www.sbc-cpd.co.uk

Day	Date	Time	Venue	Content	For Staff from
Tuesday	06-Jan	3.45-5.15pm	Knowepark	SpdSht Number Magic	Eildon East
Thursday	08-Jan	4.30-6.30pm	Langlee CPD	Inf Magic Data Handling	ALL areas & Eildon W & E
Tuesday	13-Jan	4pm - 5.30pm	Priorsford	Inf Magic Data Handling	Tweeddale
Thursday	15-Jan	4.30-6.30pm	Langlee CPD	SpdSht Number Magic	ALL areas & Eildon W & E
Tuesday	20-Jan	4pm - 5.30pm	Swinton	Inf Magic Data Handling	Berwickshire
Wednesday	21-Jan	3.30-5.00pm	Melrose	SMART part 3	ALL areas & Eildon W & E
Thursday	22-Jan	4.30-6.30pm	Langlee CPD	Comic Life	ALL areas & Eildon W & E
Tuesday	27-Jan	4pm - 5.30pm	Swinton	Sp Sht Number Magic	Berwickshire
Thursday	29-Jan	4.30-6.30pm	Langlee CPD	MS Photostory	ALL areas & Eildon W & E
Tuesday	03-Feb	4pm - 5.30pm	Duns	MS Photostory	Berwickshire
Thursday	05-Feb	4.30-6.30pm	Langlee CPD	SMART part 3	ALL areas & Eildon W & E
Tuesday	10-Feb	4pm - 5.30pm	Priorsford	MS Photostory	Tweeddale
Thursday	12-Feb	1pm -4pm	Langlee CPD	SMART 10 TTT With Anne Forrest	'Train The Trainer' Teachers - afternoon event
Thursday	12-Feb	4.30-6.30pm	Langlee CPD	SMART 10 intro	ALL areas & Eildon W & E
Friday	13-Feb	9.30-12	Langlee CPD	SMART 10 intro (*)	ALL areas & Eildon W & E
Friday	13-Feb	1-3.30pm	Langlee CPD	SMART 10 intro (*) repeat	ALL areas & Eildon W & E
Thursday	19-Feb	4.30-6.30pm	Langlee CPD	Dig Movie Creator part 1	ALL areas & Eildon W & E
Tuesday	24-Feb	4pm - 5.30pm	Eyemouth	SMART 10	Berwickshire
Thursday	26-Feb	4.30-6.30pm	Langlee CPD	Dig Movie Creator part 2	ALL areas & Eildon W & E
Tuesday	03-Mar	3.20- 5pm	West Linton	SMART 10	Tweeddale
Thursday	05-Mar	4.30-6.30pm	Langlee CPD	Photomontage	ALL areas & Eildon W & E
Tuesday	10-Mar	4pm - 5.30pm	Eyemouth	Photomontage	Berwickshire
Thursday	12-Mar	4.30-6.30pm	Langlee CPD	Probot & Maths	ALL areas & Eildon W & E
Tuesday	17-Mar	3.45-5.15pm	Knowepark	Photomontage	Eildon East
Thursday	26-Mar	4.30-6.30pm	tbc	Probots & Maths	tbc
Tuesday	24-Mar	4.30-6.30pm	Langlee CPD	Comic Life	ALL areas & Eildon W & E
Thursday	23-Apr	4.30-6.30pm	Langlee CPD	MS Movie Maker 1	ALL areas & Eildon W & E
Thursday	30-Apr	4.30-6.30pm	Langlee CPD	MS Movie Maker 2	ALL areas & Eildon W & E

(*) **SMART Notebook version 10 CPD.** In the event of teaching staff being unable to attend on Friday 13th inservice day, the event would provide an opportunity for Class and Teaching Assistants

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SMART CPD – ‘Ten tricks’ for Classroom assistants using SMART Notebook software

This CPD was delivered in Hawick on Thursday 13th November to three groups of Class Assistants an ANA's from Hawick area schools. The resource used on this occasion would be useful for other CA's and ANA's as well as class teachers who use SMART Interactive whiteboards with SMART Notebook software. None of the activities require more that a couple of minutes to set up. Click on this link and scroll down the page for the illustrated Help Sheet. <http://www.educationict.org.uk/smartboard.htm>

Equipment – Focus on small video cameras



Digital Movie Creator version 3

This is the latest version of the Digital Movie Creator and so far it has proved slightly disappointing. The sound quality on this version seems to be much poorer than on the previous version 2. The Network Team have explored the technicalities behind the problem but basically it is a fault in the product which the manufacturer is unable to improve.

However the product still has various strong points:- It is excellent for stop-motion animation, and if sound commentaries are needed in these, they can be added later. The software

is excellent for teaching primary pupils about simple video editing, without the cameras needing to be available. Neither the version 3, or the version 2 of these cameras were designed to be used for recording, for example, a class assembly. One of the other cameras listed below would be better for this type of use.

version 2





Tuff Cam TTS £79.95

This Tuff Cam from from TTS group could be a better alternative for filming and recording sound. However the Network Team are currently solving problems with the 'driver' software for installing this on the cc3 Network. We are still testing it at Langlee. Click here to see the details. <http://www.tts-group.co.uk/Product.aspx?cref=TTSPR826817> It does not come with video-editing software, but is clearly quite robust.

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Flip Ultra Video Camera £87.40

This is an impressive piece of equipment and is available from RM at £87.40. One of its main strengths is that it connects directly to the USB port on the computer and does not require any drivers to be installed. The sound quality is good and it is extremely lightweight and portable, being about the size of a mobile phone. However it is not as robust as the other cameras and might not survive being dropped ! For older primary pupils and adults it would be a very easy way to capture events in class. It does not take still images and would not be suitable for stop motion animation. <http://www.rm.com/shops/rmshop/Product.aspx?cref=PD1297710>

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Busbi Digital Video Camera £35

This product was recently listed in 'The Independent' 50 best Christmas gifts for children. Details are at <http://www.gizoo.co.uk/Products/AvCommunications/DigitalCameras/busbi.htm> I may be able to source one to try out on the network systems.



Easi-Speak Digital Voice Recorder TAG Learning £25

This is an excellent little microphone and very easy to connect to the computer USB port with no additional software being required. You can also play back and listen to your recording through the microphone itself, but the quality is much better when transferred to the computer. Details at

<http://www.taglearning.com/productdetails/Easi-Speak+Digital+Voice+Recorder.html>

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SMART Document Camera – Visualiser

SMART technologies loaned us a Visualiser for a few weeks. It proved an instant success with the pupils and teacher of P4 at St Peter's Primary school. This equipment and software articulates exceptionally with SMART version 10 and is very easy to use. Pupil's work, and 3 dimensional objects for Maths teaching were all easily viewed by everyone in the class.

Details are at <http://www2.smarttech.com/st/en-US/Products/SMART+Document+Camera/Features.htm>



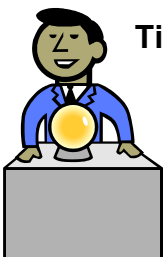
"Notebook software integration

Use the SMART Document Camera to project images and video onto a SMART Board interactive whiteboard and capture them using Notebook collaborative learning software. With the latest version, Notebook software 10, you can control the camera through a built-in menu and add images directly to a Notebook page."

There will be a demonstration of this equipment at Langlee on Monday 15th December from 1pm from the suppliers – Matrix Display

www.matrixdisplay.com

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Tips from the Network Admin team.

Please get in touch with the Network team if you are planning to purchase any software. There are some pieces of software out there, which will simply not install onto the cc3 Network and money could be saved if you check with the team first. Similarly they may be able to offer you some guidance on suitable equipment, and its ease of installation on the cc3 networks, based on their experience in a wide variety of schools.



Reduce your Photo Size

START NOW – Learn how to re-size your Digital Images

With digital cameras becoming ever more powerful it is often found that school digital photographs are taking up large amounts of storage space. It will become important to be able to use 'smaller' pictures when pupils use programs such as 'Comic Life', Microsoft Photostory, and ultimately Glow.

There are already some straightforward Help Sheets on ways of reducing photo size [here](#) . Help sheets number 10 & 10a, 22, 22a, 22b http://www.educationict.org.uk/rm_cc3_networks.htm

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'Batch – Reduce' the size of your photos.

There is a simple 'Powertoy' which can be downloaded from the Microsoft website which will allow easy 'batch re-size' of photos. You will find it [here](#)

**The Network Team has already rolled this out to all school networks.
Helpsheet 22b illustrates how easy it is to use.**

Resources

The following resources can be pre-booked and borrowed by schools on a monthly loan basis. Please contact [Liz Marroni](#) directly.



Probots

<http://www.pro-bot.co.uk>



Digital Blue Microscopes



Digital Movie Creator
version 2



Voice recorder



Roamers

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Doorway Speller – Watch this space

A very popular program in previous years, 'Doorway Speller', has now been re-created as a Flash based learning resource for your school network. This will be available in January 2009. Further details are available from Philip Whittaker at <http://ictsan.edublogs.org>

Look back at previous ICT newsletters ?

Can't find the details from a previous newsletter ? All are available at http://www.educationict.org.uk/ict_newsletters.htm

Website Watch - Festive Fun ?



Voki - Digital makeover - Create your own festive avatar.

This site shows you how . <http://www.voki.com/create.php>



Class Tools

www.classtools.net

"Classtools.net allows you to create free educational games, activities and diagrams in a Flash! Host them on your own blog, website or intranet! No signup, no passwords, no charge!"

Random Name picker is a favourite



Best Regards for a pleasant Christmas Season

Liz Marroni

Langlee CPD Centre

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Further information from Liz Marroni lmarroni@scotborders.gov.uk

