



ICT Newsletter

ACTIVstudio2

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By now, you should have received your copy of Promethean's ACTIVstudio2 Program disc and Resources disc.

The ICT Curriculum Team has negotiated a free upgrade to the latest version of ACTIVstudio2 for all schools with a Promethean ACTIVboard (Interactive Whiteboard), saving each school over £20 in administration costs.

The ACTIVstudio2 program has been completely rewritten with a range of *unique and exclusive tools for teaching*. The program also includes new "power tools" such as a fully functioning protractor, dice and ruler.

The ICT Curriculum Team has already started to run training courses on the use of ACTIVstudio2, and its application to specific

curriculum areas. A list of the Spring 2005 short courses can be found on page 2 of this newsletter or the Short Courses area on the Learn-ICT website: <http://www.learn-ict.org.uk/courses/courses.asp>.

The Program disc also contains the latest version of the whiteboard driver. However, unless you are experiencing problems with the control and calibration of your interactive whiteboard, you may not need to install the new driver.

Although there are some resources on the program disc, the bulk of the resources are on the second disc. This contains music and audio files as well as pictures, images and example flipcharts for most curriculum areas.

If you need any help in getting the most out of



ACTIVstudio2

ACTIVstudio2, don't forget that the ICT Curriculum Team are here to help you. Use your ICT Credits to book a Teacher Adviser to visit your school. Contact Lindsay Harvey on 01792 562669 or e-mail lindsay.harvey@swansea-edunet.gov.uk

Remember:

- Helpline number: 01792 636900 Service Desk for technical enquiries
- YGG Bryn Tawe: 01792 560649 ICT Curriculum Team

Bring your digital images to life with PhotoStory 3!

For those of you looking for an alternative to Textease Presenter or Microsoft PowerPoint to showcase your digital photographs, look no further than Photo Story 3. Free from Microsoft, the program allows you to bring your digital images to life. With a single click, it is possible to touch-up, crop, or rotate pictures. Once you have edited your photographs you can then add special effects, soundtracks, and your own

narration. It is also possible to personalize images with titles and captions. The program is very easy to use, allowing a sophisticated presentation to be created in a matter of minutes. For the more adventurous, the program offers a range of editing and formatting options.

Be aware that Photo Story 3 will only work on the Windows XP operating system with Media Player 10 installed. Photo Story 3

can be found at:

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/digitalphotography/photostory/default.msp>

Media Player 10 (for Windows XP only) can be downloaded from:

<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/windowsmedia/mp10/default.aspx>

Primary Short Course Programme—Spring 2005



Curriculum ICT Training Programme for the Spring Term 2005

Date	Course Title	Time
5th Jan	Creating Multimedia Presentations and Interactive Screens at Key Stage 2	9.00-3.30
7th Jan	Using the Internet & IWB to support Numeracy	9.00-3.30
2nd Feb	Creating School based websites using Schools ik.com	9.00-3.30
3rd Feb	Using the Internet & IWB to support Literacy	9.00-3.30
9th Feb	Tizzy's First Tools	9.00-3.30
10th Feb	Using the Internet & IWB to support Science	9.00-3.30
21st Feb	Using e-mail for Teaching & Learning— This course has been cancelled!	
22nd Feb	IT Coordinators Day	9.00-3.30
23rd Feb	ICT & Music Key Stage 1	9.00-3.30
25th Feb	Using the IWB with ACTIVstudio to support the Primary Curriculum	9.00-3.30
8th Mar	Using a Digital camera & Scanner as Resources for enriching the Art Curriculum	9.00-3.30
9th Mar	ICT & Music Key Stage 2	9.00-3.30
16th Mar	Using Digital Video in the Primary Classroom	9.00-3.30
21st Mar	Textease Paint	9.00-3.30
22nd Mar	Updating Web screens	9.00-3.30
23rd Mar	Using the Internet (Broadband) for Teaching & Learning	9.00-3.30

Secondary Short Course Programme—Spring 2005

Don't forget to apply for courses by filling in the yellow Enrolment Form in the Training and Development Booklet!

Date	Course Title	Time
11th Jan	Improve your skills in Microsoft PowerPoint	9.00-3.30
18th Jan	Using the Interactive Whiteboard to support Numeracy	9.00-3.30
27th Jan	Using the Interactive Whiteboard to support Modern Foreign Languages	9.00-3.30
21st Feb	Using e-mail for Teaching and Learning— This course has been cancelled!	
7th Mar	IT Co-ordinator's Meeting	9.00-3.30
10th Mar	Using ICT to support Teaching and Learning	9.00-3.30
11th Mar	HTML - Beyond Multimedia	9.00-3.30
15th Mar	Music Technology to Support Key Stage 4	9.00-3.30

Inclusion Short Course Programme—Spring 2005

Date	Course Title	Time
17th Jan	Clicker 4: Making Talking Wordbanks	9.00-4.00
8th Feb	Using IT to Support Students with Dyslexia	9.00-4.00
14th Mar	Cloze Pro	9.00-4.00
17th Mar	Clicker 4: Making Talking Wordbanks	9.00-4.00

Hwyl Fawr, Lloyd!

Lloyd Jones joined the ICT Curriculum Team in September 2002. Working with other colleagues on the TILT programme, Lloyd's role was to develop teachers' ICT skills. Enthusiastic, patient and supportive, he excelled in this role. Many pupils in the City and County of Swansea are now benefiting from the work Lloyd has carried out with the teachers.

A Welsh speaker (and a fervent Ospreys supporter!), he was a real asset to the Curriculum Team. His friendly, self-effacing, easy going demeanour coupled with his dedicated professional attitude meant that he was the ideal colleague.



Lloyd Jones, the new Deputy Head Teacher at St Helen's Primary School.

Manselton Inspection Spotlight

In the Summer Term 2004 the postman kindly delivered the letter we all knew was coming. The school was to be inspected in the Autumn Term. As co-ordinator naturally the butterflies in the stomach started to make themselves known. Fortunately, our computers decided to rise to the occasion and work, which meant that the teachers and children could really show what they could do.

The Co-ordinator meeting with the inspector was something

which I looked forward to with dread! Fortunately our inspection team was a very professional and approachable team. The school had put a number of new systems into place including the use of an Intranet, an online portfolio and planning systems and a wireless network for use with Tablet PCs and Laptops. All of which had taken considerable input both in terms of money and time so we hoped that they would be appreciated! Thankfully they were. All the

hard work of the staff paid off and thankfully the computers behaved themselves!

The new inspection framework really puts an emphasis on where you think you are. Don't sell yourself short. Teachers are often too modest about what they have achieved in a subject. Celebrate what you've achieved in school but realise too that there are always ways to improve. And remember, you'll still be there when the inspectors have gone!



Article submitted by Tim Richards, IT Coordinator at Manselton Primary School

www.manselton.baglanit.org.uk

School Questionnaire

We are currently in the process of designing a questionnaire to determine the training needs of individual schools in order to inform our curriculum support for the forthcoming academic year. You should receive your questionnaires shortly after the half-term holidays.

We would be grateful if schools could photocopy the sheets and provide each member of staff with a copy. When completed, please return them to Steve Jones, ICT Teacher Adviser, Education Effectiveness Service, YG Bryn Tawe, Penlan, Swansea, SA5 7BU.

We will analyse your school's ICT training needs and provide you with a personalised training programme for the next academic year. The results from all responding schools will be collated and will be used to inform our short course programme for future years.

Comments from School Visit Forms

Many thanks to all the schools who have provided feedback on our services. Here are some of the comments we have received:

"Thoroughly enjoyable and worthwhile." "An excellent step by step explanation of the capabilities of the software." "A well received INSET – well prepared – friendly approach." "Fantastic ideas to develop the use of the Internet for teaching and learning." "High quality with a vast amount of useful information on best practice, expertly imparted." "A worthwhile session – excellent!" "An extremely worthwhile session which met the needs of staff." "Excellent response time." "As usual, focused, energetic and full of fun."

Applications for Good Practice Group (CL@SS)

Applications are invited from interested parties to join an ICT Good Practice group. We envisage that the group will be representative of all our schools and will provide information to enhance ICT curriculum support. The group will be an important feature of the forthcoming CL@SS (*Computers and Learning At Swansea Schools*) initiative (to be launched in the Summer Term).

We hope that the group will have 15 members, comprising of representatives from: 5 primary schools, 1 junior school, 1 infant school, 1 nursery school, 1 special school, 4 secondary schools and 2 from the ICT Curriculum Team.

Meetings will be held once a term at the Education Effectiveness Service Unit at YG Bryn Tawe. Applicants are advised that supply costs will be covered for the first year only. However, we require your Headteacher to endorse your application and provide a commitment that applicants will be released during the initial phase of the project. This will amount to 6 days over the next 6 terms (starting in Autumn Term 2005 with the last meeting planned for Summer Term 2007).

Please forward completed applications (hard copies only) to: Lindsay Harvey, ICT Adviser, Education Effectiveness Service, YG Bryn Tawe, Penlan, Swansea, SA5 7BU.

Coordinator's Checklist



Please find a coordinators' checklist enclosed with this Newsletter. The contents have been drawn from the NAACE Mark criteria, ESTYN framework and the BECTA good practice in ICT website (<http://www.ictadvice.org.uk/index.php>).

Please do not hesitate to contact your ICT Curriculum Team contact or Lindsay Harvey (01792 562669) for further details.

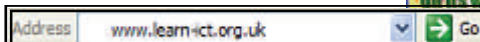


Upgrading to Clicker 5? Check the website!

If you are thinking of upgrading to **Clicker 5**, the ICT Curriculum Team are hoping to negotiate a special offer (for Swansea schools) with Crick Software for the upgrade which is due to be released in March/April this year. We will inform schools with further news via the curriculum website, Learn-ICT (www.learn-ict.org.uk).

If your web browser does not start up with the Learn-ICT website and you would like to set it to do so, here's how:

Run Internet Explorer and enter www.learn-ict.org.uk into the address bar then press the **Enter** key (or click **Go** on the right of the address bar). When the Learn-ICT website appears in the browser, click on the **Tools** menu and select **Internet Options...** In the dialogue box which appears, make sure the **General** tab is selected and click the **Use Current** button in the **Home Page** section. Finally, click the **OK** button at the bottom of the dialogue box and that's that!



And finally...

Over the past few terms, we have provided schools with a series of Resource Discs. These discs have included useful, free programs and materials created by teachers and the Curriculum ICT Team. In case you've forgotten what's on the discs we have included a contents sheet with this newsletter. We will endeavour to provide you with an updated Resource disc containing more up-to-date versions of the software we have identified as being useful. Hopefully this will be produced in time for the next IT Coordinator's meeting and will also be sent to all schools in Swansea. Check the short course list on Page 2 for dates of the meeting.

