

ICT Curriculum Team
Tim Cwricwlwm
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Volume 2, Issue 1

Autumn Term 2005

ICT Curriculum Team

ICT Newsletter



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

DiDA—A New Genre in Qualifications

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

DiDA (the **Diploma in Digital Applications**) is an exciting new suite of paperless qualifications from Edexcel that focus on the practical application of ICT. The DiDA suite contains four units: **Using ICT, Multimedia, Graphics, and ICT in Enterprise.**

To achieve the: **Award in Digital Applications (AiDA)** requires successful completion of Unit 1: Using ICT. (Equivalent to 1 GCSE) **Certificate in Digital Applications (CiDA)** requires successful completion of Unit 1: Using ICT and one of the other three units. (Equivalent to 2 GCSEs) **Diploma in Digital Applications (DiDA)** requires successful completion of all four units. (Equivalent to 4 GCSEs)

Flexibility
 The new qualification offers far more flexibility than the Intermediate GNVQ which it replaces. The structure supports the development of a curriculum model allowing all students to take the Award, as early as Year 9, progressing to the Certificate (two units) in Year 10, and finally to the full Diploma (four units) in Year 11.

There is an ICT skills checklist for each unit which students can use to establish which skills they already have and which ones they need to develop. Each unit is assessed via a Summative Project Brief (SPB) supplied by Edexcel. The SPB is an interactive, media-rich, on-screen document. Each

SPB is valid for one calendar year. As students work through the SPB the evidence they produce builds into a personalised e-portfolio. There is no examination; the pupils' e-portfolios are submitted via 'Edexcel Online' for onscreen moderation.

There are no plans, at present, to translate the Summative Project Brief and other support materials into Welsh. If Edexcel can recruit enough Welsh speaking moderators, they will allow the submissions of e-portfolios in the Welsh language.

Key Skills
 Edexcel Level 2 Award, Certificate and Diploma in Digital Applications for IT Users serve as proxies for Information and Communication Technology Level 2 skills test and portfolio.

Things to consider
 While the DiDA qualification has many attractions, it is not an easy option and there are many things to take into account before embarking on the DiDA route. The qualification builds on the Key Stage 3 QCA ICT Scheme of Work and demands that pupils have a wide range of ICT skills when they start the course. For many schools this will necessitate a review of the content and time allocated to the teaching of ICT at Key Stage 3.

There are also resource implications. Although it is possible to deliver DiDA without using Macromedia products, the Macromedia Studio 8 is endorsed by Edexcel and students who



Planning for DiDA

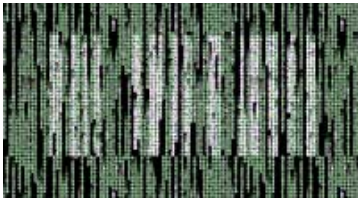
Dot Powell, Regional Development Manager for Edexcel, will be providing an Introduction to the DiDA qualification at Bryn Tawe on Monday January 9th 10.00 – 12.30. Anyone interested in finding out more about DiDA is welcome to attend.

complete the Macromedia tasks as part of the SPB will be eligible to claim Macromedia Certification. A special rate has been negotiated for schools to purchase a site licence for Studio 8, however despite the discount there will be a significant cost if the Macromedia software solution is selected. Staff training in the use of Studio 8 products will also need to be taken into the equation.

It is recommended that pupils do not share a computer; this too will have resource implications and dictate class size. DiDA also requires a radical change of approach from the teacher and there may be staff training costs. However, despite these concerns, the DiDA suite of qualifications represents an innovative alternative to the current GCSE and has the potential to inspire and motivate pupils. It is unique in its scope, philosophy and delivery methods and with careful planning, obstacles to its implementation can be overcome.
Lisa Carroll. Head of ICT Pentrehafod School



Innovative New IT Suite at Pentrepoeth Junior School



I'm trying to free your mind, Neo. But I can only show you the door. You're the one that has to walk through it. **The Matrix.**

What do we do with the children when the teachers have their PPA time? At Pentrepoeth Junior we give them high quality IT sessions that supplement the work undertaken in the classrooms, and we do it in 'The Matrix'!

In May I was approached by the head, Andy Martin, with a proposition - Would I like to come out of the classroom and provide IT for the children during PPA time? My response was – Yes, if you set up a room for me to use!

Visits to three schools followed, computers were leased, and the summer was spent working on the room – planning the layout, colour scheme, putting chairs together and writing on the wall! I was given free rein to do what I wanted in a room of my choice within a generous budget. The intent was to create a room unlike anything we had in the school, one that would make the children say "Wow!" when they walked through the door!

Our Matrix achieves the wow factor. Neo, Trinity and Morpheus look down on us from the wall, Star Wars, Blade Runner, The Matrix and 2001 are represented in quotes running down the walls.

We started using the room in the first full week of September. Last week a little girl in year 4 was asked if she would like to go to do an extra session of XL Wales, her response was, "No thank you, Miss, I'd prefer to go to the Matrix room with Mr Cole!"

Everything is going extremely well. (Hal 9000).

M Cole (ICT Co-ordinator, Pentrepoeth Junior School)



Mr Cole with the Matrix



Laptop Loan Scheme

Recently, Rob Appleby, IT Coordinator at Penllergaer Primary School, borrowed 8 laptops from us to explore the use of ICT in PE lessons. Following this successful pilot project, the ICT Curriculum Team would welcome bids from interested schools to pursue similar initiatives.

The 8 laptops are available on a free term-long loan to schools that are able to demonstrate an identified need for the equipment. Successful project bids will demonstrate an innovative approach to teaching and learning and show how the equipment loan might impact on standards.

Schools are advised that the equipment is loaned on the basis that it may not be connected to existing networks and will not attract technical support under existing SLA.

For further information, contact Howel Davies on 01792 562676.



CL@SS Group Meeting

The next meeting of the CL@SS Group will be held at the ICT Curriculum Team Training Suite on Monday 30th January 2006. During this meeting, Peter Owen (Qwizdom) and Shaun Thomas (Promethean) will be providing presentations on remote voting devices. Following this meeting, we will be providing schools with further guidance on the procurement and use of remote voting devices. Watch this space!





ICT Scheme of Work!



The new scheme of work, based on the QCA model, is now available on the Learn-ICT website. Documentation can be found at: <http://www.learn-ict.org.uk/sow>. You will note that a feedback form has been included to enable users to comment on individual units and provide suggestions to improve content. We would also welcome contributions from teachers to share the good practice currently available in Swansea schools with other stakeholders. Please forward all contributions to Lindsay Harvey (lindsay.harvey@swansea-edunet.gov.uk).

You will also note that a number of forums have been created to allow teachers to chat with other members of the online community. These are available at: <http://www.learn-ict.org.uk/openforum/index.asp>.

It is hoped that the Welsh version of the scheme of work will be available online from January 2006.



Let's Animate!

Animation is proving a big success in Swansea schools, with many schools allocating part of their school curriculum support time towards animation to enhance and develop key skills and literacy skills across the curriculum. The support so far, has ranged from school closure days with whole staff, working in class with groups of children, whole class involvement through the provision and use of laptops as part of the training and helping schools set up animation after school clubs. There have been three animation courses this term where teachers have been extremely creative and had lots of fun, with more courses planned for the Spring and Summer terms.

Well done the animation competition winners!

- 1st prize St Thomas Primary school. Year 6 – Montago**
- 2nd prize Penclawdd Primary. Year 3 – Red Indians**
- 3rd prize Llanrhidian Primary. Year 3 – Monsters**

A new part of the Learn-ICT website has been created to support animation in schools <http://www.learn-ict.org.uk/resources/animation/index.asp> where you can view some of the wonderful examples that have been made. So get your pupils animating and send the finished films to Jan Morgan to be included on the site. To book school support time contact your school's allocated teacher adviser.

Jan Morgan
Teacher Adviser ICT Curriculum Team



Essential Updates!

A little reminder to you all to keep checking the Essential Updates area of the Learn-ICT website. The main purpose of this area is to inform you of when updates and upgrades to the programs you use become available. The ICT Curriculum Team will also use this area to provide you with the latest information available from the rapidly changing field of ICT.

The latest upgrades are for Clicker 5, now at version 5.10 and Audacity to version 1.2.3.





SA1 Project



SA1 Development Area in Swansea

Twelve primary schools are involved in an exciting multi-media project (e-olwg ar y Glannau) to prepare a presentation which will “investigate the past, present and future of the SA1 development through the eyes of a child”

This work will allow pupils to investigate the history of the SA1 area using a variety of digital media - images, video, sound and music.

Pupils will be able to use the recording equipment to interview local residents to gain an insight into the history of Swansea and the SA1 redevelopment or possibly local government representatives to gain a first-hand understanding of the city's plans for the future.

Teachers from each school attended two days of workshops to familiarise themselves with the equipment and to consider storyboarding and video editing techniques.

It is intended that the resultant material will be displayed at the Welsh National Eisteddfod 2006 which of course will be held in Swansea.

The schools involved are Bryniago, Brynymor, Cwm, Login Fach, Lôn Las, Llwynderw, Morriston, Pennard, YG Pontybrenin, Sketty, St Helen's and St Thomas,



NGfL Cymru – Grant Money Available

NGfL Cymru is pleased to announce that the Welsh Assembly Government will be supporting the Innovative Schools Fund for the next two years. If you wish to apply for funding from this source then download the information pack from the Home Page of the NGfL Cymru website. (www.ngflcymru.org.uk). There is a link to this website from the Learn-ICT homepage.

Many Swansea schools were successful in their bids last year and produced valuable digital resources which are now available on the NGfL Cymru website. Swansea schools have produced more resources than any other LEA in Wales. We are also one of the biggest users of the Grid. The Grid itself has evolved substantially over the last year and now contains approximately 2000 lesson units. The ICT Curriculum Team thoroughly recommends this site.

If you are interested in applying for funding or require further information then you may contact [Huw Morris](#) who will support you in your application. Members of the ICT Curriculum Team will also be available to support successful bids. The Grid will also welcome cluster bids from a network of schools.



SLTS Site goes live!

This Swansea Learning Technology Support website is now available online. It will contain information about the services provided by Swansea Learning Technology Support (SLTS), which is the ICT technical support service for schools delivered by Corporate IT at County Hall. It contains information and documents on all aspects of technology in schools as well as forms which allow you to request changes, report an incident and write off equipment. Its address is www.learn-ict.org.uk/slts.



The ICT Curriculum Team would like to wish our schools a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

