



Becta leading
next generation
learning

Next generation learning right now

Recognising ICT excellence in schools



Introduction

In this booklet we celebrate the winners and runners-up of the 2008 Becta ICT Excellence Awards.

There are so many ways in which ICT can transform learning and teaching, so many ways it can help people of all abilities achieve their full potential. Best practice is being shaped across education by dynamic and inspirational teams, in schools and local authorities. It's fundamental to Becta's role that we seek out that best practice, and help to spread the word. This booklet offers a snapshot of what's being done, across the UK and at all levels. This is excellence now, in practice, and in progress. All the schools and organisations here are an inspiration for the future.

A Message from Stephen Crowne Chief Executive, Becta

Raising the standard

2008 has been a hugely exciting year for the Becta ICT Excellence Awards. We received the highest ever number of entries and our judges have seen some of the most inspirational practice, leadership and support with ICT they have ever experienced. This is made all the more impressive when we consider that the categories underwent a significant overhaul before the 2008 launch and now cover a wider range of issues, assessed to a higher level than in previous years.

We are also very pleased to be introducing regional winners in the Best whole school category, helping us to present truly transformational practice with ICT across the whole of the UK.

All of the schools and organisations you will read about in these pages are making a massive difference to their learners, staff, parents and wider communities using technology and we will be working closely with them to share their excellent practice with others across the UK and beyond.

May I offer my congratulations to all the winners and runners-up of the ICT Excellence Awards 2008.

Stephen Crowne

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Crowne". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line that extends to the right.

Chief Executive, Becta

Contents

Introduction	2
A message from Stephen Crowne, Becta	3
Our sponsors	6

Best whole school award 8

National and Regional winners

Blackburn the Redeemer Church of England Primary School	10
Djanogly City Academy Nottingham	12

Regional winners

East of England - Parkside Pupil Referral Unit	14
London - Prospect House School	15
North East - Monkseaton High School	16

Regional joint runners-up

North West - Childwall Valley Primary School	17
North West - Broadgreen International School	18

Regional joint winners

Northern Ireland - St Columb's College	19
Northern Ireland - Belfast Model School for Girls	20

Regional winners

South West - John Cabot Academy	21
Wales - Maes Yr Haul Primary School	22
West Midlands - Lickhill Primary School	23
Yorkshire and the Humber - Robin Hood Primary School	24

Learning experience award 26

Primary winner

St Joseph's Cathedral Junior School	27
-------------------------------------	----

Primary runner-up

Ferndale Primary School	28
-------------------------	----

Secondary winner

The Minster School	29
--------------------	----

Secondary joint runners-up

Homewood School and Sixth Form Centre	30
Frank Wise School	31

Leadership, management and collaboration award	32
Primary winner	
Grays School	33
Primary runner-up	
Anson Primary School	34
Secondary joint winners	
All Hallows Catholic College	35
Selworthy School	36
Secondary runner-up	
The Minster School	37

Beyond the classroom award	38
Winner	
Twynham School	39
Support for schools award	40
Joint winners	
Wolverhampton LA e-Services	41
IT Support Service, Durham County Council	42
Joint runners-up	
Swansea ICT for Learning Service	43
East Lothian Council Curriculum ICT Team	44
List of shortlisted schools and organisations	46

Our sponsors



Web-based software training and support.

Atomic Learning is proud to continue supporting the ICT Excellence Awards. Founded in 2000 by a group of technology educators, Atomic Learning serves over eight million individuals in over 40 countries worldwide. Atomic Learning is dedicated to providing educational resources that allow educators, pupils and learners of all ages to embrace technology. The ICT in Excellence Awards recognise effective use of ICT in schools. It has been a pleasure to be part of the awards and to see how ICT is being used to engage and develop the whole school system and the innovative ways that schools are using technology to work with the community.



Ramesys is delighted to be once again supporting the recognition of ICT excellence in schools. As a leading ICT partner in the Building Schools for the Future and Academies programme we recognise that people transform education, not buildings or ICT alone. All the winning schools and local authorities have demonstrated expertise, partnership, quality and success; their people have made this happen for them. Congratulations everyone.



RM is proud to be a sponsor of the ICT Excellence Awards 2008 and we congratulate all those schools that have been nominated as well as those who have won. We were delighted to see the innovative work being done by schools and the progress that was being made to embed ICT as a tool to support learning and teaching. At RM we are dedicated to delivering outstanding educational products and services that help learners to learn and teachers to teach. Whether in a primary or secondary school, a new academy, a college or at the national level such as the GLOW network in Scotland, we believe that good ICT skills and access to great resources help and support learners and assist them for the rest of their lives. It is fantastic to see so much good work being done and congratulations to all those involved.



Serco Learning is delighted to be involved in the Becta ICT Excellence Awards. As a leading supplier of software solutions that help schools provide the best opportunities to every learner, our aim is to promote achievement and well-being through innovative and effective use of ICT. This event rewards outstanding performance in schools ICT and our suite of management and education software is designed to promote the same kind of success in every school. So we are delighted to join Becta in recognising the outstanding ways in which the winners have benefited their learners and their local communities.

TOSHIBA

Leading Innovation >>>

Toshiba is proud to be playing its part in implementing Next Generation Learning, to exploit fully the power of technology to provide a 21st century education that reaches and benefits all learners and enables the UK to compete globally. Our relationship with the education sector is long standing and predicated on confidence, trust and a mutual commitment to quality and improved educational outcomes for learners. Toshiba is delighted to support the work of Becta, and especially in these awards which recognise and celebrate the innovation and creativity of learners, teachers and school leaders.

In association with. educationguardian

As media sponsor of the ICT Excellence Awards, we would like to congratulate all the winners and nominees for their individual achievements in integrating ICT into their teaching and learning practices. On a personal level, we would also like to thank the schools and local authorities for making judging such a challenging but enjoyable task. It was great to see a whole range of schools achieving results not only for themselves but for their wider community and to witness how enthusiastic they were in sharing their ideas and helping support others.

Best whole school award

For this award, schools must demonstrate that their strategy and vision for ICT stretches across the whole school and beyond, and is having a clear impact on the outcomes for pupils, staff, parents and the wider community.

This award recognises those schools at the very forefront of the transformational use of ICT, who are keen to share this practice and continue to find new ways of working. These leading schools exceeded the judging criteria, delivering personalised learning and innovation on many levels, with everything underpinned by strong strategic and operational management.



Best whole school National winner: Primary

Blackburn the Redeemer Church of England Primary School, Blackburn

Alison Ashworth-Taylor - Headteacher
Mark Power - Deputy Headteacher
Margaret Prescott - Assistant Headteacher

“They took us on a ride and all we could do was tick every box of our criteria.” In what proved to be the strongest single region in this year’s awards competition, the Redeemer Church of England Primary School in Blackburn still managed to astonish the judges with the quality of its work.

ICT is totally embedded in all aspects of the school experience from the day a child enrolls, with exceptional practice at the Foundation Stage. Pupil assessment is exemplary, not least through self-assessments where children hyperlink the statements in a matrix summary to examples of their own work.

Innovation at the school is closely linked to the strength of management, led by the headteacher and the deputy head. Critically they have involved all staff in the development of the school’s vision and strategy, intrinsically supporting a whole school approach and ensuring that staff embrace

Craig Marshall - ICT Specialist Support Teacher, HLTA and School Governor
Find out more about this school at
www.theredeemer.blackburn.sch.uk

new ideas readily. The result is an inspirational relationship with other schools, the local authority, and the whole community.

Blackburn the Redeemer Church of England Primary School was also winner of the best whole school category for the North West.





Best whole school National winner: Secondary

Djanogly City Academy Nottingham

Matt Buxton - Assistant Head of ICT Development

Mike Butler - Chief Executive

Emily Brown - Vice Principal: Learning & Teaching

Darren Frearson - Director of Learning Technologies 11-14

Find out more about this school at
www.djanogly.notts.sch.uk

Djanogly City Academy in Nottingham is no stranger to awards but still emerged as a compelling choice this year, a consistent beacon of excellence in the education landscape.

That it should achieve this in an area of inner city deprivation is all the more remarkable. A third of its intake receives free school meals, many of its children do not have English as a first language and 50 per cent enter the school with reading ages below the national norms.

The school scores highly for personalised learning through its Learning Gateway and integrated management information system, with access available from any internet connection. School documents and learner data are online with appropriate protected access for parents and teachers as well as students. All tasks are set and marked online, with parents kept closely informed of progress or concerns.

Advanced ICT is embedded in teaching practice. Classroom work has moved beyond whiteboards, with superb use being made of wireless projectors and tablet computers allowing staff to pull up any screen (their own or any student's) and then annotate it.

The academy also has multiple close links with the community it serves. Many students do projects and other work in the community; there are art exchanges with a local Arts Centre and a strong involvement with many local employers.

Djanogly City Academy Nottingham was also winner of the best whole school category for the East Midlands.






Djanogly

Best whole school

Regional winner: East of England

Parkside Pupil Referral Unit, Ipswich

Stuart Bailey - Headteacher

Libby Page - Deputy Headteacher

Sally Swann - Deputy Headteacher

The judges were “blown away” by this school. “When we asked the head about his vision for ICT he just talked about the learner. And the innovation in teaching and learning was outstanding.”

Parkside Pupil Referral Unit caters for some of the most demanding students, particularly those with mental health problems including autism. Many of these young people were non-attenders at school but now travel up to 50 miles each way, by choice, to come to Parkside.

The personalisation of learning is exemplary as well as innovative (for instance Spanish is taught via a video conference by a teacher in Wales).

Jean Freeman - ICT Co-ordinator

Alan Harvey - Bursar ICT Co-ordinator

Find out more about this school at
www.parkside.suffolk.sch.uk

The relationship with parents is critical and is directly supported by the learning platform or Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). In some student homes there is not even reliable access to electricity but here the students are trusted to take home a fully charged laptop with a 3G card for broadband connectivity. A parental liaison officer helps to ensure that the parents understand what their children are doing and can help them begin to exploit the power of ICT for themselves.



Best whole school

Regional winner: London

Prospect House School, London

Victoria Jordan - ICT Co-ordinator

Kevin Chung - Technical Manager

- House Schools Group

Dianne Barratt - Headteacher

Prospect House is a fee-paying, independent school founded in 1992; it is co-educational and non-selective. It offers exemplary practice in ICT and any school could learn from its excellent work.

One member of staff remarked that “ICT does not make you a good teacher” and that insight is central to its ethos. The school places great emphasis on individual and personalised learning and uses ICT to enhance and facilitate this work. There are interactive whiteboards in every classroom and high quality ICT resources are found throughout the school. All staff are encouraged to use ICT and to incorporate its use in lessons; as a result both teachers and pupils use ICT competently and confidently.

Alex Rentoul - Head Governor

- House Schools Group

Find out more about this school at

www.prospecths.org.uk

As a mark of that confidence there was evidence of both peer and self-assessment from as early as Reception, where children were seen supporting and advising each other, particularly at the end of the lesson. The quality of the animation work produced by the Reception class was described by the judges as “breathtaking”.



Best whole school

Regional winner: North East

Monkseaton High School, Whitley Bay

Simon Thompson - Assistant Headteacher

Paul Kelley - Headteacher

Dorothy McLaughlin - Head of ICT

Monkseaton High School stands out for its promotion of independent and autonomous learning, giving its students the flexibility to determine when and how they use ICT. There are 900 students on its roll, coming into the school from Year Nine.

The school has Innovation Trust status, and its assistant headteacher has specific responsibility to develop ways of using ICT for better learning and teaching in all subjects. The most obvious innovation, however, is going on around the physical design of the school, which will be moving to a completely new building next year. In the meantime, and as a test bed for the ideas which have shaped the design of the new building, the whole design of the school is based upon learning and teaching areas to the point where no teaching staff, including the headteacher have any separate office space (confidential school data is of course housed securely away from the teaching areas).

Christopher Walker - Network Manager

Steve Rutland - Head of Learning and Skills

Find out more about this school at
www.monkseaton.org.uk

The design is further distinguished by "The Pyramid", a large ICT area in the centre of the school. The headteacher works openly in this space.

To complement this physical design the school works effectively with the community beyond its walls (the Open University scheme for schools started here), including well-developed online reporting to parents. Parents also have online access to curriculum materials.



Best whole school

Regional joint runners-up: North West

Childwall Valley Primary School, Liverpool

Kevin Basnett - Headteacher

Vicky Hartford - Deputy Headteacher

Originally there were no plans to name runners-up in the best whole school category, but the standard of the shortlist in one region (the North West of England) was so high that we felt we had to make some public recognition of this excellence. Childwall Valley and Broadgreen International are outstanding schools by any measure, and we commend them here.

Childwall Valley school demonstrates once again that, even in an area of social deprivation, the effective use of ICT lends itself to a transforming agenda. Childwall Valley is a Fresh Start school, opening in 2003 to replace a school with notorious discipline problems and low standards. The local authority and schools inspectorate decided from the outset that ICT should be a focus, and with its Fresh Start status the school has been well resourced. But the school's leadership has worked to build on those resources to create a thriving educational community which has overcome the initial cynicism of many parents.

Lynn Scott - ICT Leader & Advanced Schools Teacher

Find out more about this school at www.childwallvalley.org

The school's website is used both as showcase for the children's work, especially in video and podcasting, as well as a channel for sharing information.

The school leadership has a clear vision of ICT as a creative tool to enhance teaching and learning. There's a readiness to explore new technologies and possibilities, linked to continuous evaluation of the impact of the ICT. Central too in this vision is that pupils should have a personalised programme and become independent learners. The headteacher is also extending the benefits of the school's experience through active work with the local authority and the Building Schools for the Future programme.



Best whole school

Regional joint runners-up: North West

Broadgreen International School, Liverpool

Peter Banks - New Technologies Manager

Ian Andain - Headteacher

Gail Jones - Head of ICT Faculty

Joanna Moore - Community Co-ordinator

Find out more about this school at

www.broadgreeninternationalschool.com

Broadgreen added the international element to its name in September 2008, reflecting its determination to celebrate its distinctive nature. That distinction might start with its multinational intake, but it's also true of its commitment to effective ICT.

Unsurprisingly, inclusion at all levels and community integration are priorities for the school. Of its 1,200 pupils nearly 200 come from ethnic minorities with strong representation from the local Chinese community. Many of its students also come from challenging home circumstances. There are also 450 children on the SEN register.

Broadgreen's commitment to inclusion was evident in every aspect of its ICT. The judges noted the excellence of its Deaf Resource Base (the school caters for the majority of deaf children in Liverpool). The school has also been working on improving home access to technology for three years, through the Computers for Pupils initiative and its own Sunshine Foundation charity. Students from the

most deprived areas can take 3G-equipped laptops home for full broadband access.

The school's collaborative ethos also shone through. Commitment to its community was summed up for the judging team when it met Leslie via a webcam, an 88-year old whose life has been transformed by staff at Broadgreen encouraging him to learn how to use ICT.

The use of the well-established learning platform is impressively integrated with the MIS system. The data management and tracking available through these integrated tools are extremely powerful, facilitating superb learner assessment.



Best whole school

Regional joint winners: Northern Ireland

St Columb's College, Derry

Mary Jo O'Carolan - ICT Development Officer
Sean McGinty - Principal

You get a sense of the culture of St Columb's College in Derry from the fact that it won an award in 2007 as best public sector organisation for professional development. The award reflects the inspirational commitment of a leadership team to the autonomy of its staff as well as its students, as well as what the ICT Excellence Awards judges described as a "serious culture where innovation is encouraged without fear of failure".

St Columb's College is a selective grammar school for boys in Derry, though its intake of some 1,500 students covers all areas of the city.

St Columb's is an amazingly committed and thoughtful school, with a totally embedded approach. ICT is no longer taught as a discrete subject at the school and a careful mapping of ICT across all curriculum subjects ensures that all boys are gaining the skills they need in a natural and embedded way. This approach is supported by effective planning and target setting, and rigorous assessment.

Thomas Bradley - Vice Principal
Find out more about this school at
www.stcolumbs.com

There's a learning platform to complement this rigour with the flexibility and variety to engage and motivate students. A high percentage of students have broadband access from home and the small number without have preferential access to any ICT suite outside lesson times. There's also an interest-free finance scheme for laptop purchase in the sixth form. All these factors lead to flexible and personalised learning opportunities for all pupils.



Best whole school

Regional joint winners: Northern Ireland

Belfast Model School for Girls, Belfast

John Graham - Principal

Mary Pinkerton - Vice Principal

Paula Leitch - Senior Teacher

Mary Gillespie - Resource Manager

Find out more about this school at

www.belfastgms.org

With a non-selective intake from three of the ten most deprived areas in Northern Ireland, the Belfast Model School puts a strong emphasis on its role in the community, at the same time setting high expectations for its students. By the time they are 13, 94 per cent of this all-girl school will have gained an A-C grade GCSE in ICT.

The school uses technology as a lever to help raise the common low self-esteem of the girls when they join. It's a reflection of the strong leadership that so much is devolved. Staff are encouraged to take responsibility for ICT and students are actively involved in the development of technology to support teaching and learning. As a result ICT is thoroughly embedded in all aspects of school life.

Home access is limited for many students, so the school has a homework club and encourages students to use its computer suites outside lessons. Students can also take laptops and video cameras home. The learning platform itself is well-populated with course material and widely used.

The school's focus on the work within the community and with parents is outstanding. For instance, the school offers GCSEs in English, Maths and ICT at the Shankhill Women's Centre.



Best whole school

Regional winner: South West

John Cabot Academy, Bristol

Nick Jones - Principal, John Cabot Learning Federation

Adam Williams - Principal, John Cabot Academy

The John Cabot Academy demonstrated a solid performance across the range of criteria, often innovative and with an exemplary use of technology for assessment.

Personalised learning in the school starts with an inclusive curriculum allowing for individual pathways, reflection, choice and focusing on the process of learning. Each student has an individual plan and has two mentors.

The learning platform and management information system (MIS) are fully integrated with an easy-to-use interface resulting in high usage. Innovation is encouraged, including the use of mobile devices that bring learning directly into the pupils' lives, facilitating innovative thinking, creativity and motivation. Staff readily explain that they have been guided by the students in this area.

Assessment is recorded and communicated effectively, easily available and at the heart of planning for individual education plans for all

David Carter - Executive Principal

Chris Hall - Assistant Principal

Andy Ling - Strategic Head of Network ICT

pupils and whole class lessons. It also forms the basis of peer pairing/grouping, behaviour management and works with the mentoring programme to provide regular and effective intervention/feedback for pupils.

The judges described this whole area of work as outstanding, starting with the use of data from the Fischer Family Trust to set targets, which are then agreed with learners. Individual progress is tracked against these targets and a new assessment tool used for self and peer-to-peer assessments.

Find out more about this school at
www.cabot.ac.uk



Best whole school

Regional winners: Wales

Maes Yr Haul Primary School, Bridgend

Wesley Keirl - ICT Co-ordinator

Pam Mahoney - Headteacher

Jon Reynolds - ICT Engineer

At Maes Yr Haul Primary School the headteacher decided it was time to redefine what ICT meant: the I stands for “imagination and enquiry”, the C for “confident communicators” and the T for “taking charge”.

These ideas run through the school’s practice, with technology everywhere but always in the service of teaching and learning. There are 530 students in the school in the far south west of Wales, but any geographic remoteness is countered by an active use of video conferencing. It’s used within the school but also for links as far away as Botswana. There are also more everyday and strong links with the local residents’ association, developing the school buildings as community facilities.

The Maes Yr Haul Team of Teaching and non Teaching Staff Maes Yr Haul Primary School

Find out more about this school at
www.maesyrrhaul.com

The children make confident use of broadcasting techniques, uploading weekly podcasts to the school’s excellent website (which acts as a general showcase for the children’s work). “This is an excellent school,” the judges said, “where staff have great opportunities to develop under a visionary head.”



Best whole school

Regional winners: West Midlands

Lickhill Primary School, Stourport on Severn

Calne Edginton-White - Headteacher
Caroline Worthington - Key Stage 1 Co-ordinator,
Curriculum Online Co-ordinator
Sue Guest - Early Years - Foundation Stage Manager

In Lickhill Primary School every child has a computer. With different levels of password protection in place, anything on the school network can be accessed by staff, parents and children from home.

These are the essential building blocks for work in this new primary school, where the headteacher has a clear vision for ICT and actively encourages risk-taking. ICT is firmly embedded in all curriculum areas (including PE) and there is a strong focus on personalising learning.

This innovation is evident in the school's development of a radio station to support speaking and listening. In partnership with Radio Hereford and Worcester, the station even broadcast live through the region in September 2008, an exercise it hopes to repeat.

Benjamin Edginton-White - Learning Resource Technician
Margaret Griffiths - Chair of Governors

The radio station has enhanced already strong community relations. It also has a good and active link with its local high school, including an integrated workshop for video conferencing.

The radio station has proved a spur to a wide range of creativity. It uses a wide range of hardware for media-related work, including the generation of jingles for the radio station and work on animation. It's all part of a wide-ranging commitment to explore the possibilities of technology as a learning and teaching tool.

Find out more about this school at
www.lickhill.co.uk



Best whole school

Regional winner: Yorkshire and the Humber

Robin Hood Primary School, Wakefield

Mark Wilson - Headteacher

Sam Bailey - Deputy Headteacher

Alison Darroch - ICT Leader

Robin Hood Primary School is in an area that's been hard hit by changing economic conditions, but its community is supportive and the school has quickly become oversubscribed in its short life (it has 350 places).

ICT is an important part of the approach at Robin Hood and the headteacher has successfully involved both staff and children in the development of a clear vision for how it should be used. Some 95 per cent of children have ICT access at home and the intention is to ensure that every child in school has full access to a computer.

ICT is used throughout the school on all parts of the curriculum. It's also used to reach beyond the school, including email communication with parents (as far as possible) and ICT links with other schools in Turkey, France and Spain (for which it won an international ICT award).

James Watson - Primary ICT Support

Find out more about this school at

www.robinhood.leeds.sch.uk

The Robin Hood school website is excellent, and functions in some respects as a learning platform, with many tasks and resources available for learners. This 'learning zone' is well developed and well used, even including message boards for everyone in the Robin Hood community to exchange thoughts and ideas.



No awards were made for Scotland and South East England.



Learning experience award

This category recognises excellence in the use of ICT for learning and teaching for all pupils across all areas of learning and all subjects. It also commends those schools who systematically record pupils' ICT capability across all subjects and make good use of technology to support their assessment processes.

In a strong field of excellent practice the judges noted that curriculum planning with embedded ICT was particularly strong in primary schools, and beginning to make a real difference in teaching practice. Secondary schools, on the other hand, were more advanced in their implementation of learning platforms and there were strong indicators of a correlation between raised performance and good technology practice.

Learning experience

Primary: Winner

St Joseph's Cathedral Junior School, Swansea

Scott Lynch - ICT Technician

Neil Courtney - Acting Headteacher

Rebecca Mullan - ICT Assistant

Cerian Appleby - ICT Co-ordinator

Find out more about this school at

www.stjosephsrcjunior.org.uk

St Joseph's Cathedral Junior School in Swansea is challenged by a labyrinthine building and the often limited English language skills of some of its intake. The school is well attuned to the multi-lingual needs of its community and has built an advanced and supportive learning environment based on choice and diversity.

The learning platform has been developed by the school to match the needs of its community and offers communication opportunities beyond the school. E safety is taken seriously and, as well as the usual policies and agreements, the school has run a series of workshops for parents over several weeks supported by the local university.

The children are confident and articulate about ICT. The school runs a 'Newsround' group of pupils who prepare and broadcast a news programme to the whole school every week.

Technical support staff work alongside the teaching staff and have helped them harness new technology to support the continued raising of standards for all pupils. The school uses assessment tracking to set individual learner targets and identify progress over time. Performance data are posted in the individual child's section of the website with access for families, which helps to support achievement.



Learning experience

Primary: Runner-up

Ferndale Primary School, Great Barr

Natalie Hackett - ICT Co-ordinator

Nigel Edge - Headteacher

Ferndale is a large city primary school on a split site. The judges were particularly impressed with the way ICT was integrated in teaching practice at Foundation level, setting a standard for development through the school.

This integration starts with the range of ICT equipment available, and then the diverse ways in which it is used. Assessment is one of the strengths of the school and it has used walkie talkies to help track oral development. The image of very young children riding round on solar powered motorbikes talking on walkie talkies certainly stayed with the judging team.

Adam Callow - ICT Manager

Find out more about this school at
www.ferndaleprimary.co.uk

Space is used creatively within the school to support the integration of ICT in the curriculum and gives extra teaching spaces for target intervention groups. The school works closely with the City Learning College to extend the curriculum, for example the teaching of control through Lego Technic models.

The school website also supports learning beyond school with helpful links and programmes of study.



Learning experience

Secondary: Winner

The Minster School, Southwell

John Partridge - Head of ICT

Paul Stevens - Assistant Headteacher e-Learning

Clare McKeever - Acting Deputy Headteacher

School Effectiveness

The Minster School is a large, rural comprehensive with 1,640 pupils on role, including 400 in the sixth form. It includes a key stage two unit primarily for the children of the choir at the Minster.

The school is in a new building and ICT was an integral part of the planning for that development.

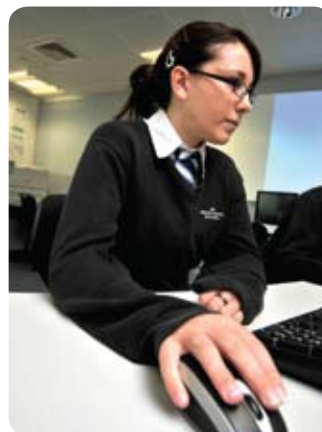
An enthusiastic team leads ICT development with a clear sense of its role and the development and impact of ICT throughout the school. The team has ambitious plans about future developments and takes every opportunity to include ICT for learning and teaching. For example, teaching staff make audio notes on MP3 players for pupils who need to consolidate their learning. The design department is notably enthusiastic about its future and the role of ICT in supporting its students, not only in design, but in the completion of highly professional end products.

Chris Stevens - Acting Deputy Headteacher,
Specialism Teaching and Learning

Find out more about this school at

www.minster.notts.sch.uk

The school's arrangements for quality assurance examine each department's ICT development and the impact upon pupils' learning. This, together with professional development and pupil progress tracking, ensures that ICT is making a significant difference to learning and teaching, and helps the leadership team see clearly where there is scope for further development.



Learning experience

Secondary: Joint runners-up

Homewood School and Sixth Form Centre, Tenterden

Chris Foreman - Vice Principal Learning Systems

Mark Lane - ICT Community Project Leader

Caroline Gaygan - 'Next Practice' Team Member

Paul Hanson - 'Next Practice' Team Member

Louise Ghosh - e-Learning Foundation Administrator

Find out more about this school at www.homewood-school.co.uk

"This is a cracking school," enthused one judge, commending the progress this large rural comprehensive has made in raising standards through innovation, with ICT playing a key role.

Homewood serves a wide catchment area with 2,159 pupils including a sixth form of 300. All pupils have the opportunity to lease a laptop through the school and many have taken up this opportunity. The wireless network allows the pupils to work independently anywhere on the school site.

In 2004 the school implemented its 'total curriculum', a thematic and project-based approach, incorporating ICT across five key subjects (English, Maths, History, Geography and Ethical and Religious Studies). The planning for this innovation was thorough and involved many staff across the departments. The result has been excellent pupil engagement and attainment, with high levels of e-maturity among learners.

Innovation in the school goes beyond the school gates. There's an emphasis on entrepreneurial skills, backed by active support from local businesses. Homewood also works closely with its cluster schools to extend the impact of its experience.

It was the wide-ranging way that ICT was used that really impressed the judges. They said "there's an excellent vision of where the school wants to go with technology. The plan covers not only the learning experience but many aspects of the school's organisation and work."



Learning experience

Secondary: Joint runners-up

Frank Wise School, Banbury

Sean O'Sullivan - Headteacher

Nick Robins - Site Manager

James Hammond - Pupil

Frank Wise is a special school, whose pupils have specific and complex needs, coming from a wide catchment area and out of borough. It has 109 pupils from the age of two up to 17.

The school has a long history of working with ICT and the headteacher has a strong vision around accessibility, pupil voice and understanding. The school has taken time to consider its learning platform and is part of wider development groups who are looking carefully at the specific needs of pupils in special schools.

The school has a record of trialling new technologies and developing bespoke systems to support its pupils.

Inclusion is at the heart of the learning experience, both in terms of activities within class and also in the wider community. A notable feature is that every child is placed in a mainstream school every week and some transfer permanently.

Amy McGoldrick - Pupil

Find out more about this school at

www.frankwise.oxon.sch.uk

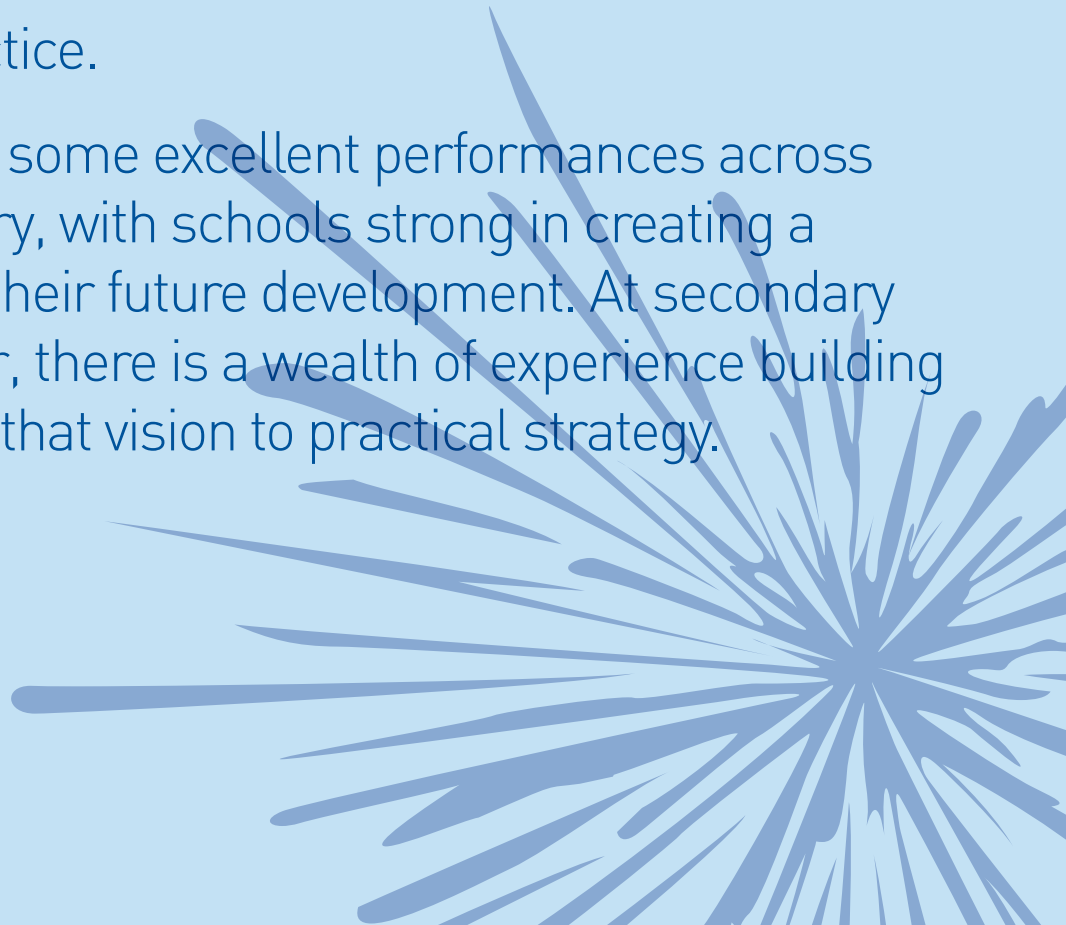
Personalisation is in turn central to this inclusive ambition. Plans for the future reflect these aspirations which are currently limited by the technology and infrastructure. As the learning platform is launched it should also help the school be an even more prominent focus of local community engagement.



Leadership, management and collaboration award

This category recognises those schools whose leadership and vision for ICT encourages innovation alongside efficiency, effectiveness and best value. It demands demonstrable processes for review and evaluation. Winning schools will also demonstrate a commitment to sharing best practice.

The judges noted some excellent performances across the whole category, with schools strong in creating a vision of ICT and their future development. At secondary level, in particular, there is a wealth of experience building up in how to turn that vision to practical strategy.



Leadership, management and collaboration

Primary: Winner

Grays School, Newhaven

Christine Terrey - Headteacher
Cheryl White - Business Manager
Ellie Clarke-Walker - Teacher

Grays School has used ICT to procure improvement across the curriculum and to raise standards, with initiatives such as a video conferencing project having a “perceptible impact” as stated by Ofsted inspectors in 2007

This improvement is not confined to the school itself. The headteacher is working closely with the local authority and Grays’ cluster schools to plan and extend the impact of its initiatives.

Some of the technology is simple. For instance, the school has successfully used text messaging to keep parents in touch. Others are more exploratory: podcasting is being exploited to support speaking and listening skills, leading to improved literacy. All of these initiatives are carefully evaluated and the results used to support further curriculum planning.

Elizabeth Gardner - Individual Needs Assistant
Find out more about this school at
www.graysschool.co.uk

ICT is also being used to identify where children need help beyond standard curriculum activities. The school has also taken care to ensure that teachers are confident with any technology tools, offering lots of INSET time. Plans for a learning platform to serve the cluster are well advanced and the school is pioneering a laptop provision scheme for all its Year Two children. The ICT Excellence Awards judges described the school simply as “wonderful”.



Leadership, management and collaboration

Primary: Runner-up

Anson Primary School, Cricklewood

Jeff Smith - Headteacher

Simon Pile - ICT Team Leader

Brooke Penrose - ICT Team

Linda Rafter - ICT Team

Find out more about this school at
www.ansonprimaryschool.com

Anson was only narrowly pipped to the winning post in this category by Grays and there's a similar commitment to spread any insights gained from ICT development work through the local authority and beyond.

There are 37 languages spoken in the school. Ofsted said it was "like a village school in the United Nations". ICT has always been a strong feature but the catalyst for recent dynamic change has been the implementation of the learning platform, and the commitment of the teachers to make it work.

The approach is emphatically consultative. Staff are fully involved in planning, and feedback channels built into the learning platform to ensure children's views and insights can be captured. Some innovative personal approaches have also proved successful. New technologies

are presented to the children by 'Betsy Bee', with an emphasis on safe practice. Betsy even makes personal appearances (a teacher in full costume) to guarantee the children's attention.

"This is an excellent school with clear vision for ICT and real sense of how to achieve it practically," the judges commented. "The headteacher empowers his staff to move forward and there appears to be a really sustainable model in place for the strategic leadership of ICT."



Leadership, management and collaboration

Secondary: Joint winners

All Hallows Catholic College, Macclesfield

Wallace Johnson - Head of E-Systems

Anthony Billings - Headteacher

Sarah Williams - Head of ICT

All Hallows Catholic College has come on a steep journey from special measures, in just two years, emerging at the point where its potentially high achieving students are beginning truly to realise that potential. ICT has been very much part of the strategy to improve the quality of teaching and with it learner achievement.

The first leadership challenge was to turn around a “can’t do” culture with its accompanying low expectations. The team used ICT to change school processes fundamentally, and with it successfully transformed attitudes in the school.

The school holds a full range of information in its Management Information Systems (MIS) on attendance, behaviour, progress, attainment and special needs. The monitoring ensures the data is of high quality and regularly done to support pupil achievement and motivation.

Simon Ibison - Mathematics Department

Jane Brooke - Education Adviser

Find out more about this school at
www.allhallows.org.uk

All departments have ICT champions who meet regularly and cascade information to all staff. This cascade structure is also used to support innovation and new developments in the school. The ICT champions and other staff use coaching techniques to support all staff through personal mentoring.

The technology also supports a strong culture of success across the school community, with an electronically based merit system, through which students are expected to commend others by giving out three times what they receive themselves. Learner feedback is an integral part of the way all systems and processes are managed.



Leadership, management and collaboration

Secondary: Joint winners

Selworthy School, Taunton

Karen Milton - Headteacher

Veronica Nicol - Business Manager

Cheryl Hudson - ICT Co-ordinator

Selworthy is a community special school. Most of its 72 students have severe and complex problems. Accordingly the school has a high staff to pupil ratio (nearly 1:1), but the headteacher has also successfully used ICT to develop new teaching approaches, which are now being spread further through the Taunton learning community and beyond.

All staff have responsibility for ICT, with an ICT Forum set up to make decisions on strategy and implementation. The curriculum focuses on what the young people need to know when they leave school. All have individualised programmes, including media studies, and links with local secondary schools for dance, drama, etc.

ICT is used both to support assessment and to engage pupils, using established tools such as interactive whiteboards, but also more experimental approaches such as using the games consoles to work with autistic children.

Diane Farnham - Deputy Headteacher

Find out more about this school at

www.selworthy.somerset.sch.uk

The school maintains close and consultative links with parents through regular email contact.

The judges were also delighted to see a direct link in the evaluation between spending on ICT and impact on pupil achievement. Overall they said, "This school has a lovely atmosphere. The headteacher has a clear vision for the school and is well supported by all staff. Their aim is to make learning a positive experience for all the pupils, to motivate and excite them."



Leadership, management and collaboration

Secondary: Runner-up

The Minster School, Southwell

Paul Stevens - Assistant Headteacher eLearning

Philip Blinston - Headteacher

Angela Zannetou - Curriculum Team Leader
Technology Art and Design

The Minster School has won the top award in the learning experience category this year, and you can find more detail about the school on page 29.

Its success in creating a superb learning experience undoubtedly reflect the strengths of its leadership team, propelling the school to a high score in this category too.

The headteacher takes a systematic approach to help staff understand and deliver the school's vision for ICT in general, and e-learning in particular, appointing an e-learning assistant head as part of the vision for learning for the school. ICT champions were also appointed and the geography department was established as the lead in the school to pioneer e-learning approaches that other departments could then adopt. Pupil and parent views were also systematically captured as part of the development plan.

Chris Stevens - Acting Deputy Headteacher

Specialism Teaching and Learning

Find out more about this school at
www.minster.notts.sch.uk

Continuous professional development is also managed within the school's quality assurance strategy, helping to ensure there is consistency in current and future practice.



Beyond the classroom award

This category seeks to identify those schools who are using ICT to break down barriers to learning outside the classroom environment, for example through encouraging the use of ICT in the home as part of family learning or by offering opportunities for pupils to access learning from outside the school building.



Beyond the classroom

Secondary: Winner

Twynham School, Christchurch

Michael Herrity - Assistant Headteacher

David Coleman - Network Manager

Chris Mckinley - SharePoint Developer

Twynham School in Christchurch emerged as the single winner in this category. The school's approach to reporting suggested "a good understanding of what parents and pupils want". The school listens to students and their families and modifies procedures in the light of that insight.

The school's learning gateway provides easy and appropriate access to individual student data, protected by suitable log-ons for families. The pathways element supports parents and children when making career choices. The use of video is particularly strong. Students on courses are encouraged to talk about their experiences and the resulting film made available to other students considering their subject options. The approach has worked well to inform the dialogue between students and their parents about those options.

Darren White - SharePoint Developer

Find out more about this school at

www.twynhamschool.com/supportinglearning

There has also been a successful drive to ensure that the parental reporting system reduces the overall administrative burden on staff. The integration of the learning platform with the school's MIS ensures that performance data is automatically presented to parents in a meaningful way. The approach is already attracting serious interest from other schools and system providers.

There were no other winners or runners-up awarded in this category.



Support for schools

This category aims to reward those organisations who support school improvement with ICT, encouraging the systematic and innovative use of appropriate technologies to deliver learning and teaching, communicate with the wider school community and improve administrative efficiency.

The judges noted a very high standard of entry this year, with a wider use of Becta's Self Review Framework as a means of promoting best practice, and an emerging strong emphasis on intelligent e-safety, balancing protection for children with ease of access.



Support for schools

Joint winners

Wolverhampton Local Authority e-Services

David Whyley - Headteacher Consultant
Jill Purcell - e-Services Manager
James Plant - e-Information Manager
Gavin Hawkins - Learning Platform Consultant

“Stunning!” declared the judges. “This is clearly a high achieving local authority, valued by their schools and with lots of insights that could be shared with others.”

The strategy is led from cabinet level with the director of children’s services fully involved. All strategic services are managed under the same umbrella. The authority has a clear vision for an e-enabled system with children, young people and their families at its heart.

A policy group made up of headteachers allows for strategy-making informed by real practical sense. Teachers are picked out to act as ambassadors for ICT in other schools not as far along the journey. All Wolverhampton schools provide data for central analysis.

The authority’s learning platform uses a very interesting model of centralised hub with school portals hanging off it. The rollout is being managed in a thoughtful way, picking up workforce issues

Lindsay Coleman - Senior Adviser
Sue Morris - Mobile Learning Consultant
Paul Porter - Curriculum Consultant

and dealing with them immediately. The pilot has been run in three schools, with cohorts of schools brought on stream according to their level of e-maturity.

Other local services, such as the police, health and social services have access into the learning platform and information about certain identified students is contributed by all parties. In this way the platform can be used to support vulnerable and disadvantaged youngsters.

Find out more about this organisation at www.wolverhampton-engage.net



Support for schools

Joint winners

IT Support Service, Durham County Council

Philip Blackburn - Curriculum Support Manager

Phillip Smith - Head of Service, ITSS

Vanessa Matthews - Advisory Teacher – ICT, ITSS

Barbara Brown - Technical Support Manager, ITSS

Find out more about this organisation at

www.durham.gov.uk

By emphasising quality assurance Durham has successfully built excellent relationships with its schools. Most notably it sought and achieved external accreditation through the ISO 9000 quality assurance standard, partly because of the breadth of services covered by the standard, partly because it is a good match for the demands of Becta's Self Review Framework.

The authority offers technical support to schools as a one-stop shop, a multichannel call centre which can handle email as well as voice enquiries through a web-based portal. Problems are assigned to a specific engineer who is the only person who can close the call. Staff are drawn from a balanced range of experience and expertise to ensure they can support the full range of likely enquiries. Responses and results are monitored closely.

The IT team has also developed the Durham Learning Gateway (DLG). Some 81 per cent of the schools in Durham (238 schools) currently access

the DLG. Resources are developed by individual schools and then shared, or commissioned by the local authority, or developed by partner organisations (for example One North East and Durham University are currently developing a modern foreign languages website).

Becta's Self Review Framework is embedded in all work. For instance all learning gateway schools must complete element 1 (leadership and management) of the Self Review Framework (SRF) before they can go onto the gateway.

Durham also scored highly because of its emphasis on the professional development of its own staff, with training plans to support the evolution of its vision for ICT in schools.



Support for schools

Joint runners-up

Swansea ICT for Learning Service

Kieran Costello - ICT&E- Learning Strategy Manager

Lindsay Harvey - ICT Adviser

Chris Davies - Broadband & Server Team Leader

Wayne Morgan - Software Support Team Leader

Find out more about this organisation at

www.swansea.gov.uk or www.learn-ict.org.uk

Swansea is a dynamic and rapidly improving local authority, responsible for 88 primary and 16 secondary schools, as well as two special schools and four pupil referral units. Its forward progress has been very striking.

The central data services and information to support school improvement were picked out for particular commendation. The data can be made available to all local authority agencies, for instance so welfare officers can check individual pupil progress where appropriate.

The Becta Self Review Framework is used as a core tool in school improvement planning. The authority retains six ICT Mark trained assessors (and a lead assessor) to work actively with its schools. They visit once a year and put together an ICT action plan. The documentation from the visit requires an evaluative comment from the schools.

The local authority website carries best practice examples, including video clips and schemes of work, designed to share experience across the authority.

There is central support for procurement and a service level agreement (SLA) for technical support, which is highly valued by schools. The SLA was developed through consultation with all stakeholders and provides a central cohesion for the service.



Support for schools

Joint runners-up

East Lothian Council Curriculum ICT Team

David Gilmour - Education Network
Development Officer

Karen Robertson - Quality Improvement Officer

Elizabeth Cowan - Education Curriculum Officer

East Lothian is doing some exemplary work to support parental engagement in schools, particularly around e-safety. This is a small local authority, with 35 primary, six secondary and two nursery schools, but it serves a diverse population including a significant Hungarian community. (In fact it's used the presence of this community to encourage an international dimension on its blogging platform – every child in the authority is encouraged to write a blog.)

The authority has a clear vision of the role of embedded ICT in school improvement and ICT is part of the overall local authority strategy and plan. The area has a high level of computer ownership, but parental understanding of e-safety issues in particular was patchy.

Suzanne Todd - Senior Support Assistant
Find out more about this organisation at
www.eastlothian.gov.uk

The authority has developed an intelligent strategy, working with police and parents, as well as children, to promote a balanced understanding of the risks and simple measures to counter them, an approach designed to ensure that children feel confident rather than intimidated about their use of technology.





Shortlisted schools and organisations

The judges thoroughly enjoyed their visits to all the shortlisted schools and final decisions were very difficult. Beta would like to congratulate the following schools which were shortlisted for the ICT Excellence Awards 2008.

Alwoodley Primary School - Leeds
Ashover Primary School - Chesterfield
Bitterne Park School - Southampton
Blessed Edward Oldcorne Catholic College - Worcester
Bradon Forest School - Swindon
Broadclyst Community Primary School - Broadclyst
Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School - Barry
Castle Business and Enterprise College - Walsall
Cooper Perry Primary School - Stafford
Denbigh High School - Luton
Devonshire Infant School - Smethwick
Eggbuckland Community College - Plymouth
ETHOS Pupil Referral Unit - Huddersfield
Fox Wood School - Warrington
Gorsemoor Primary School - Cannock
Greenfields Primary School - Shrewsbury
Haslingden High School - Haslingden
Hindley High School - Wigan
Hodgson School - Poulton-le-Fylde
Hugh Christie Technology College - Tonbridge
John Davies Primary School - Sutton-In-Ashfield
Longwill School for Deaf Children - Birmingham
Mersey Grid (MGL) Ltd - Liverpool
Oakington Manor Primary School - Wembley
Perins School: A Community Sports College - Alresford
Queen's Drive Infant School - Peterborough

Rhws Primary School - Barry
Schools Technical Advisory Support Service - London Borough of Tower Hamlets
Shirley Warren Primary & Nursery School - Southampton
St Boniface's Catholic College - Plymouth
St Helens Local Authority - St Helens
St. Matthew's CofE Primary School and Nursery Centre - Telford
Stocksbridge High School - Sheffield
Stoke Damerel Community College - Plymouth
Stukeley Meadows Primary School - Huntingdon
Telford and Wrekin ICT for Learning Team - Telford
Tettenhall Wood School - Wolverhampton
The Bishop's Stortford High School - Bishop's Stortford
The Crossley Heath School - Halifax
The Forum School - Blandford Forum
The Hills Lower School - Bedford
The Loyne Specialist School - Lancaster
The Orchard School - Oldbury
Thorns Community College - Brierley Hill
Tir-y-berth Primary School - Caerphilly
Tynewydd Primary School - Caerphilly
Westfields Junior School - Yateley
Woodberry Down Community Primary School - Finsbury Park
Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg - Barry



Becta leading
next generation
learning

Milburn Hill Road, Science Park, Coventry, CV4 7JJ
Tel: 024 7641 6994 Email: excellenceawards@becta.org.uk
Web: www.becta.org.uk/excellenceawards

Sponsored by



In association with



Supporting



nextgenerationlearning.org.uk