



John Janulewski
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East Riding Digital Learning Community/School Improvement Service

Progress Update

1. Connectivity

- All secondary schools will have a 100Mbps up to 1Gbps connection through to County Hall, when the 3 remaining 30Mbps bottlenecks in the county network are resolved early in the next financial year from the last tranche of Harnessing Technology grant. The connection speed for the 3 bottlenecked secondary schools will still be 30Mbps, ie a 3-fold increase on the DCSF recommendation.
- Significant numbers of primary schools already have upgraded connections – a process that will continue, again using the Harnessing Technology grant.
- Many schools will be connected via high capacity private fibre connections which provide high speed at a sustainable cost.
- Much work has been done, and continues to be done, to broaden the range of providers for connection to the internet allowing robust solutions – but it is here that we need your support. It would be very simple to keep upping the capacity of our ISP to keep pace with demand (as we have been doing so far) but this position is not sustainable since ISP costs are very high to deliver the levels of security we need in the schools sector. It would help the county wide position if a few simple procedures such as these could be followed:
 - *Schedule updates for out of school hours.*
 - *Use centrally managed update schedulers so that there is one update per school, distributed across the school network, rather than an update for each machine in the*

school.

- *Use compressed file types for potentially large (eg. multimedia) files.*
- *Use conventional radio receivers for listening to radio broadcasts as around 8% of our bandwidth was being used for streamed Viking Radio alone.*

2. The ICT team has provided

courses to schools that were grant funded and hence “free”, many of which were delivered in school thus addressing the specific needs of individual schools.

3. The Learning Platform is

developing rapidly in many schools – the measured usage from RM has been described as “tremendous” by RM in a number of our schools. It is hoped that all schools will see the LP as a way of collaboration thus decreasing workload, especially in terms of planning and resource generation. No matter how big your cluster, there is still much to be gained in working across all 153 schools within the LA.

4. A number of Hull College staff

have been made members of the LP community – a start with expanding the collaboration net to include all diploma providers.

5. The direct teaching arm of the

DLC continues to deliver services to many primary schools. A study of the results gained, against the FFT, target by the pupils concerned shows that there is a measurable benefit in using the DLC to

Contact us at the DLC

The main contact for all queries other than the specialist ones listed below is the DLC (01482) 638501 or dlc@eastriding.gov.uk where the telephone will be answered by our administrator Jo Mennell.

CPD, Consultant Advice and School Support on the Implementation of the Learning Platform: Lynn Kelsey (01482) 392497 or email lynn.kelsey@eastriding.gov.uk

LP Support from RM: The RM Support Online service has technicians dealing with queries related to the Learning Platform and will usually respond within four hours during the working day. Log a call online at www.rm.com/Support

Alternatively phone RM Technical Support on **0845 404 0000** (available Mon-Fri 08.00-18.00)

Other: Technical queries - Andy Nunn (01482) 392473 andy.nunn@eastriding.gov.uk.

Budgeting, planning and strategic development - John Janulewski, john.janulewski@eastriding.gov.uk or (01482) 392404 or 638502

Apart from the DLC contact, due to the roving nature of the above roles, a first approach by e-mail would be the simplest method to ensure a successful outcome.

Main contact for all queries except specialist:

01482 638501

help pupils to achieve their potential.

6. The “Hard to Reach” secondary pupil project (known as *Vibe*) continues to develop and is coming to the end of its pilot and system development phases. Watch this space for a consultation exercise of how *Vibe* services could be rolled out to the benefit of our schools.

continued overleaf

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It is hoped that the new management of the wider DLC team will continue these developments enabling the DLC to grow from strength to strength in providing training, direct educational and technical

services for schools.

Importantly there are a number of exciting new initiatives in the pipeline involving working with other teams concerning central hosting of SIMS and centrally

managed ICT support provision from our PPI partner, Arvato; further details of these can be found within this newsletter. □

The future structure of the School Improvement ICT/DLC teams

by John Janulewski

I would like to formally say that I am retiring from the 1st May. As can be imagined, this period in general is a difficult and uncertain time since there will inevitably be changes to funding streams as a result of the outcome of May 6th. It has been decided by senior staff within the SIS to put in place a temporary arrangement so that

any forced economic changes can be more easily accommodated once they are known. At this stage expressions of interest have been sought from members of the SIS team for a temporary postholder to cover my roles until the future is more securely understood. In addition I would like to let you know that Mary Janulewski is

also retiring at the end of April. Many of you will know Mary through her work with the DLC as well as coordinating the later stages of learning platform installation and RM training. Yes, we are both looking forward to the “brave new world” that retirement brings.

DLC Teaching Developments

by Rebecca Bellwood

214 children have taken part in our booster courses this year; some have already come to an end and the rest are nearing completion. This year has also seen schools book our Level 5 courses for maths and English to support children in making 2 levels progress from KS1 to KS2.

The children have joined in our lessons with enthusiasm and really enjoyed the virtual environment. Feedback from those involved also showed that they find it fun working with children from other schools as well as motivating. Good luck from all the DLC teachers for your SATs!

We were delighted to have a pupil from one East Riding school log in from home to one of our lessons. Unable to attend school due to a football injury, he remembered it was his weekly DLC lesson, borrowed his mum’s headset

and joined the lesson. It was great to see how easy it was for him to access the lesson from home (with no technical problems) and gratifying that he chose to spend his day off school attending our lesson.

The long summer term ahead is an ideal time to book children onto our gifted and talented courses, maybe to refocus year 6 children after SATs, or to give children an extra challenge as the school year draws to a close. The G&T courses are designed to present children with work that challenges, stretches and excites them, using a stimulating online environment to ensure they meet their potential. See below for our current offer.

Children have been exploring The DLC interest space for fun on the Learning Platform recently. All pupils in the authority are registered, not just those who do

our lessons. It is regularly updated with news, activities and links to websites and the children can create and take part in discussions.

If there is any other intervention support we can offer schools, please do not hesitate to contact us. Many of our courses can be adapted for different year groups or abilities.

One East Riding primary school requested some writing support for their Year 5 pupils. Through discussions with a DLC teacher, topics were chosen where support was needed from the Year 6 booster course and the lessons re-written with Year 5 learning objectives.

SPECIAL SUMMER OFFER
Book 6 children on any G&T course by the end of April and receive one free place on any of the DLC’s G&T courses!

Arvato developments

by Tim Gregson - Head of IT, Arvato

As you may be aware the LEA has, for a number of years, received funding from central government to provide IT support to the Excellence Clusters. This funding has been used to employ three IT technicians who have assisted a number of schools with their IT infrastructure.

Unfortunately, the external funding for this provision will cease on 31 March 2011. If this service is to continue it will be necessary to ask schools to contribute to the costs from April 2011.

The technicians are currently working alongside our partners, arvato, who will be contacting schools to determine if

they would be interested in entering into a support SLA. Arvato can offer a range of support agreements ranging from the provision of an on-site technician for just half a day a week, to a full five days a week. As a guide, the cost of a dedicated person for a half a day per week would be £3,800 per annum.

Arvato are able to help schools make the most efficient use of their ICT equipment to ensure that pupils leave education with a broad range of ICT based competencies. They are fully conversant with the changes to the national curriculum which aims to use ICT as a tool

across all subjects rather than a specific subject in its own right.

For those schools that are about to embark on construction projects and would like some help in ensuring that their IT requirements are taken into account in the new build, arvato are offering to provide schools with one day consultancy at no cost.

If you would like to discuss this offer further or would like more information on the SLA, please email ictis@arvatogov.co.uk or contact **Rob Gutherless** on **07884490881**.

East Riding Learning Platform

Updates by Lynn Kelsey - Teaching and Learning Consultant for Primary ICT

Following the DX2 Learning Platform upgrade at the end of the spring term, schools will have some new portal administration options available so further 'Refresher' Learning Platform Portal Administrator central training days have been set up in the summer term.

These training days will not focus on learning and teaching issues as such, but will cover all the key tasks a school is likely to need to do as the school develops its use of the Learning Platform with pupils, staff and parents.

If one or more members of staff

involved in administering the Learning Platform would like to attend one of these days, this can be booked on the CPD website.

As well as providing news and updates about Learning Platform developments, Learning Platform Coordinators meetings allow time to work individually or collaboratively to share ideas and successes, troubleshoot issues, explore different aspects of the portal and the VLE as well as consider practical ways forward for their school.

These afternoon meetings are held



each term in three different school venues across the county.

In-school consultancy visits can be extremely helpful in supporting school coordinators to consolidate their knowledge and understanding of the Learning Platform and to help plan a development programme for rolling this out to pupils, staff and parents.

If you feel your school would benefit from a visit, please contact lynn.kelsey@eastriding.gov.uk.

and finally...

It is with a degree of sadness that I write this newsletter as it is my final one before taking retirement. Please accept my sincere thanks for the camaraderie and support that you have all shown over the past 8 years. I appreciate that whatever is done in the field of ICT is often, through necessity, too little, too late since the pace of change is so fast (and increasing). I have tried to bring a view to developing systems that balances technical development, available funding and the learning needs of all schools; large, medium and small. You will be the best judges of whether I have been successful, but whatever you feel, please continue to talk to the members of the SIS and DLC teams so that your wishes can contribute to the overall aim of making ICT based learning, and the necessary support systems, better for all our schools.

With all best wishes for the future. John

John Janulewski - ICT Strategy Manager, School Improvement Service/DLC