

Continued Professional Development for teachers



INDIGO
VISIONS
for teaching and learning®

In the Big Picture, we have published many articles with practical advice about how to get the most out of your ICT equipment. In the last issue, we talked about developing ICT in the classroom and how using ICT can enhance both the teaching and learning experience.

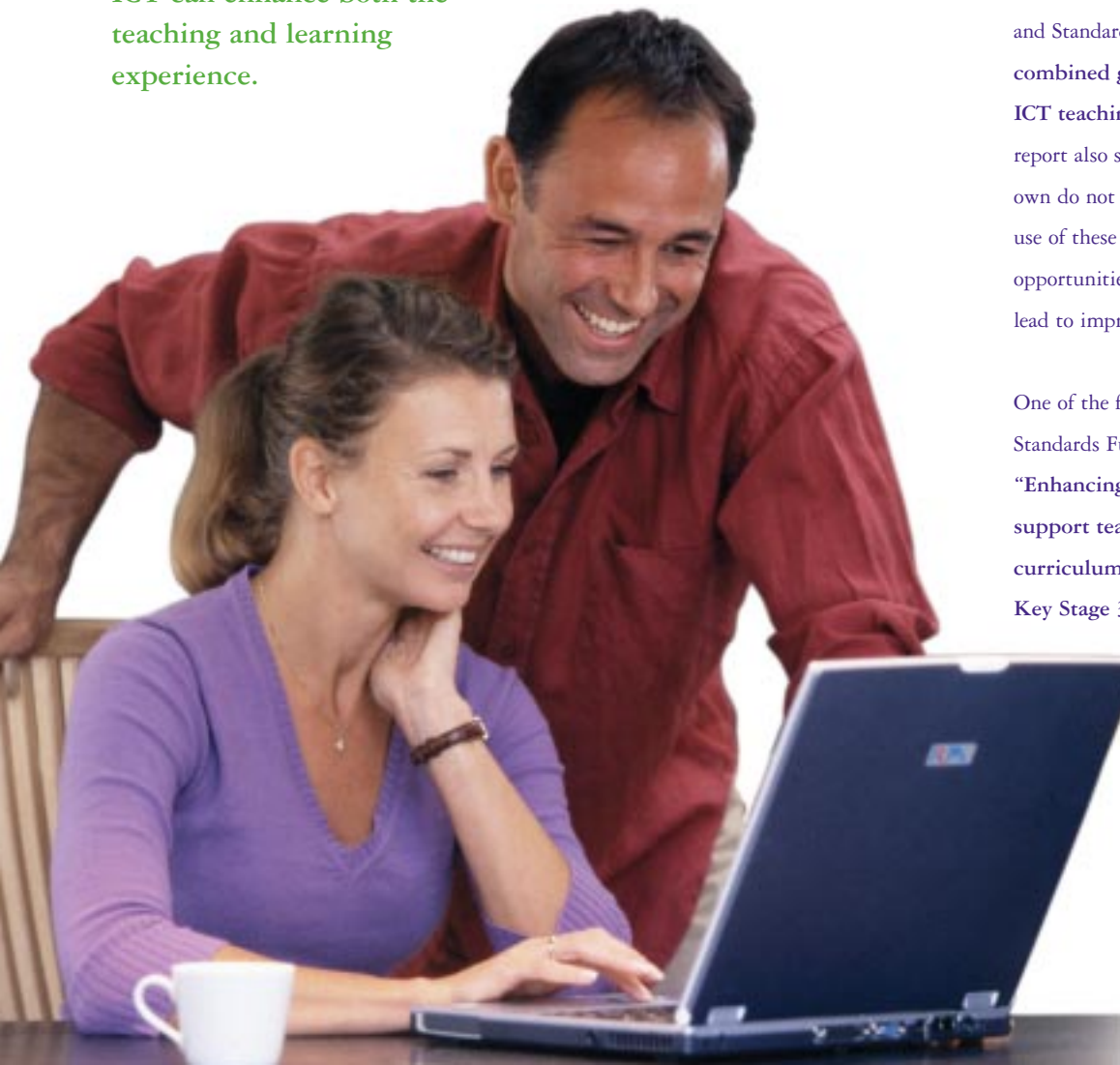
We have also had letters from a number of you who have invested in exciting new technology but want to get more out of your investment in order to embed ICT in to everyday teaching. Here, we look at how teachers can develop existing skills to really turn ICT into a useful tool for subject

teaching. After all, it's the teachers who make the difference to the learning experience and raise levels of attainment.

What is so important about embedding ICT in subject teaching?

The Becca 2002 report, 'Primary Schools' ICT and Standards', showed that "Schools that combined good ICT resources with good ICT teaching gained better results". The report also showed that ICT resources on their own do not have a significant impact. It's the use of these resources and the learning opportunities presented to the pupils that lead to improved results.

One of the five priorities emphasised in the Standards Fund Guidance this year is: "Enhancing the way teachers use ICT to support teaching and learning across the curriculum in support of the Primary and Key Stage 3 Strategies and Key Stage 4".



For a copy of the free INDIGO CD ROM demo disc, please send your name and address to info@indigo-visions.co.uk. For more information, email info@indigo-visions.co.uk or telephone us on 0845 3000 371. Visit the website www.indigo-visions.co.uk

INDIGO Visions for teaching and learning™ offers a practical approach to Continuing Professional Development (CPD), and is about giving teachers the skills, knowledge and confidence to embed ICT in subject teaching and pupils' learning. The DfES commissioned and piloted the materials for the 'Enhancing Subject Teaching Using ICT' CPD initiative and INDIGO is approved by them. The Initiative's management board includes the DfES, Becta, Ofsted and NAACE, among others, and all INDIGO materials have been quality-assured by the board.

Sounds like a lot of time and effort?

With planning, preparation, teaching, and all the other things that you, as a teacher, have packed into your day, finding time for CPD is hard. INDIGO is specifically designed with this in mind. Teachers can choose just six modules from a wide range of Key Stage 1 and 2 Literacy and Numeracy modules, and complete them over the course of a year. Each module contains a lesson plan and all the relevant tools and resources, so it fits neatly into existing lesson planning. Face-to-face and online support is provided by expert tutors, who are subject specialists and experts in using ICT in the classroom.

To summarise, INDIGO:

- Offers practical training.
- Fits neatly into existing lesson planning.
- Provides face-to-face and online support from experts.
- Is aligned to, and supported by, the Key Stage 1 and 2 Literacy and Numeracy strategies.

- Is personalised to suit workload, time available and individual needs.
- Is approved by the DfES.

Also:

- It will help raise standards in both teaching and learning.
- You'll be using all that expensive ICT equipment much more effectively.
- You'll develop really good teams working together and providing peer support.
- You'll be able to address ICT and CPD in your School Development Plan.
- Teachers using INDIGO lessons have received 'Very Good' observations from Ofsted.

“It was brilliant as a whole. It was well supported and the whole package was well researched and set up, providing all the necessary materials for the lessons, which meant we didn't have to start from square one.”

Jonathan Goulding Deputy Head, Gorsey Bank Primary School, Cheshire.

“It felt great that instead of having to ask, I could do it myself. I thought these things were complicated but they're not. It's not just ICT; it's using ICT as a teaching tool”

Teacher at Gorsey Bank Primary School.

Costs an arm and a leg? Absolutely not!

Funding is available through the Schools' Standard Fund Grant 31a Infrastructure and Hands-on Support. It's worth remembering that a day's INSET training, including cover and travel, usually costs more than a subscription to INDIGO for a teacher for the entire year.

Think of INDIGO as a cake.

All the ingredients – the face-to-face and online support, expertise, Ofsted reaction, pilot success, funding – come together to enhance subject-teaching, improve the learning experience, raise levels of attainment, and help you get the most from your ICT.

The icing on the cake is that upon completing at least four modules, you will receive a certificate to accredit your completion of the DfES initiative. Kingston University School of Education, Meltec and INDIGO are working on a fully-accredited route, through which work on INDIGO may provide the basis for a Postgraduate award from Kingston University.

And the candles?

On completing the INDIGO programme, you can become a paid INDIGO expert, providing support within your school and for others in the area. Your school can become a Training School, hosting support sessions for other schools and sharing good practice.

So...

You can have your cake and eat it too!

Interactive teaching and learning - there's more to it than interactive whiteboards alone!

Interactive whiteboards have become very popular in the primary classroom and there is considerable Government focus on this solution for whole-class teaching.

However, they are not the only interactive teaching solutions available to help you make your lessons engaging and motivating. There are other solutions that can provide a level of interactivity in the absence of an interactive whiteboard. These products can also enhance the power of an interactive whiteboard.



Basic interactivity

If you do not have an interactive whiteboard in every classroom, but want to have as much interactive capability as possible, using a projector to display images from your PC onto a wall or screen will provide you with the ability to show lesson material to the whole class. For example, information on a spreadsheet can be displayed and worked on with contribution from the whole class. All changes you make on your PC will be instantly viewable by the whole class. With a desktop PC, you will, however, find restrictions as you are tied to your desk at the front of the class.

Wireless technology provides an added edge to interactive whole-class teaching. In the absence of a whiteboard, you can adopt the basic interactivity provided by a projector and desktop PC by using wireless keyboards and gyromice. These products will enable your pupils to interact with lesson material, displayed by a projector driven by a desktop PC, from anywhere in the classroom. You no longer have to be sitting at your desk in front of the class. With an interactive whiteboard, you and your pupils are able to work directly at the board, so can combine interactive technology with traditional teaching methods.

The next level

The tablet PC offers a new level of interactivity. The pen-based interface and versatility are attractive features. Whether you are using an interactive whiteboard or not, a wireless tablet PC allows you to control the lesson from anywhere in the classroom. The tablet PC, as a mobile teaching tool, has been limited by one simple barrier – the poor performance and expense of wireless projectors. However, speed and cost are no longer issues, due to the affordable WPG-1000 projector server. This small box connects to the RGB port of any projector and allows it to communicate wirelessly with your Microsoft® Windows® based PC. You can drive the lesson from anywhere. Now that interactive whiteboards, such as the RM ClassBoard™ are Bluetooth (wireless) enabled, a truly wireless environment offers the ideal interactive teaching and learning situation.

So, even if you don't have interactive whiteboards in every classroom, there are cost-effective alternatives available to help you to deliver engaging and motivating interactive lessons.

For more information about the award-winning RM Tablet PC, WPG-1000 (available exclusively from RM), gyromice and keyboards, and our full range of interactive products, please visit www.rm.com/primary

The RM Window Box

support portal at www.rm.com/support

Find help at anytime without picking up the phone!

The RM Window Box support portal covers products that are predominantly used within the primary education sector. The website is an intuitive service linking to your support calls, helpful information and sourcing downloads.

We have a range of new services that make the site easier to use as well as giving it a new look and feel. So, whether you are a frequent user or a first time user, we think you will like what you find.

Check the RM Window Box portal area for information addressing your needs and answers to commonly asked questions.

Features include:

- Important news and technical articles.
- Latest news.
- Share your knowledge.
- Email bulletin service.

Follow links to:

Knowledge Library

The new explorer interface allows you to browse through folders for information, as well as search the library. This should ensure you find what you are looking for. If you have any doubts, we have an online librarian who

can help - just click on 'can't find it' and explain what you are looking for.

My Support Calls

- **Log a new call online**
Create a new support call by selecting the 'Just LogIT!' link, or by following one of the diagnostic quizzes.
- **Review, update or close existing calls**
Interact with an RM Support engineer online, provide extra information or close calls to confirm your query has been answered.



Laptops for Teachers - more functionality, more choice and more educational value at lower prices.

This year Laptops for Teachers (LfT) funding has been devolved directly to schools. This gives you more opportunity to tailor the laptops you select to meet your needs, based on your school's specific ICT strategy.

If you use software, such as RM Window Box or whole-class teaching software on a regular basis, you can now choose to have these pre-installed onto your LfT laptop. The laptop

then becomes a valuable tool for lesson planning, preparation as well as for use in class. So, rather than just selecting a basic laptop with minimal functionality, you could choose to have the educational software pre-installed so it is ready to use, helping you become more confident and efficient with the software.

Because RM only sell to education, we only supply laptops that are durable enough to withstand the rigours of the education environment. In fact, our nBook range of laptops, introduced almost two years ago, are

proven to be among the most reliable around. We are also pleased to be able to offer you competitive prices. Our laptops were the lowest priced laptops on the DfES LfT website throughout March 2004.

Finally, the support you will receive with your laptop is built around the specific needs of education, ideally suited to you.

For more information about the LfT scheme and the choices available from RM, please visit www.rm.com/lft



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