



making the most of ICT in subject-teaching

There is much talk currently about the impact of ICT in the classroom. **INDIGO VISIONS** for teaching and learning™ can help teachers develop their existing skills and turn ICT into a useful tool for subject-teaching.

What is INDIGO all about?

INDIGO is about **giving teachers the skills, knowledge and confidence to embed ICT in subject-teaching and pupils' learning** and offers a practical approach to Continuing Professional Development (CPD).

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 students that lead to improved results. And that means – it's the teachers who will really make the difference.

“Simply because you have an electronic whiteboard in the room or a PC in the corner, doesn't of itself mean that education changes at all, it depends whether it's used, how it's used and whether it is used in the most effective way.”

*BETT Conference, Olympia
Wednesday 7th January 2004
Charles Clarke, Secretary of State for Education and Skills*



No doubt about it. I've spent a lot on hardware and software over the years and I'm not sure it's used effectively.

Exactly. Once the infrastructure is in place it has to be used confidently in subject-teaching. Otherwise it's like buying a catering-sized chocolate cake when you've been told to get your cholesterol down; it was jolly expensive, a complete waste of space, and it's a constant reminder that you can't do anything with it.

Why does it matter about embedding ICT in subject-teaching?

The Becta 2002 report “Primary Schools ICT and Standards” showed that **“Schools that combined good ICT resources with good ICT teaching gained better results”**. And ImpaCT2, a major study funded by the DfES and managed by Becta, found that there is a

positive association between the use of ICT and pupil attainment at GCSE level – **in other words, computers really do help to raise standards in schools.**

It has also been shown that peer-led coaching in the teachers' own work environment is the most effective way of spreading best practice in ICT in the classroom. **INDIGO** has face-to-face expert help built in, as well as online support, and gets the best results when teachers work together and support each other.

How does it work? – it sounds like a lot of time and effort.

A teacher chooses up to six modules, and completes them over the course of a year. Each module contains a complete lesson plan with 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, and case study videos of other schools using ICT help to put good practice use of ICT in the classroom into context.

And because review and evaluation happens throughout, the CPD happens almost by default.

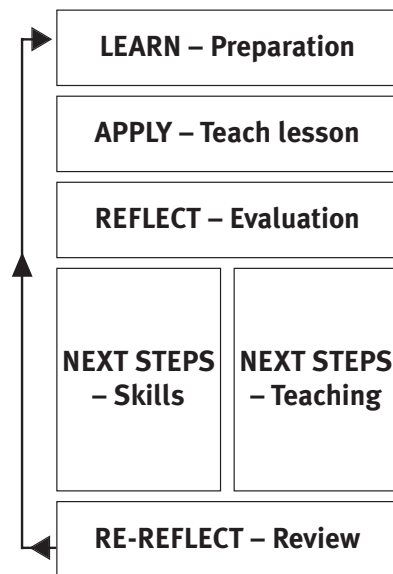
Why should I choose INDIGO?

The DfES commissioned and piloted the materials for the “Enhancing Subject Teaching Using ICT (CPD)” initiative in 2002. **INDIGO** was one of 3 providers chosen for the pilot, and was awarded KS1 & 2 Primary and Literacy, plus five KS3 subjects, at the end of the pilot.

The initiative's Management Board includes the DfES, Becta, OFSTED, and NAACE among others, and all materials have been quality-assured by the Board.



INDIGO SUBJECTS	
Key Stage 1 & 2 Literacy and Numeracy	
Key Stage 3 Science • English • Design & Technology Modern Foreign Languages • ICT	
Autumn 2004 KS3 Music, History and Citizenship.	



I bet it's going to cost me an arm and a leg.

Absolutely not! It costs just £350 per teacher for the entire year.

Even so – where will the money come from?

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 KS3 Strategies and KS4”. This means that funding is available for teachers wanting to make the most of ICT in their subject-teaching, through the Schools Standard Fund Grant 31a Infrastructure and Hands-on Support.

OK that's all the salesy stuff. What will it do for me? Give me 3 things it will do for me and my school.

- It will help raise standards in both teaching and learning.
- All that expensive ICT equipment will be used more effectively.
- You'll develop really good teams working together and providing peer support.
- The ICT and CPD in your School Development Plan will be addressed.
- Your school could become a Training Centre when teachers have done the training and can provide face to face support to other schools.

...and 3 things it will give the teachers.

- The confidence and competence to use ICT in their teaching.
- Face-to-face support and online support from expert tutors.
- Peer support and the sharing of good practice through the **INDIGO** online community.
- A certificate to accredit completion of the DfES initiative.
- The opportunity to become a paid **INDIGO** expert at the end of the training, providing face-to-face support to others.

In addition, teachers using **INDIGO** lessons have received “Very Good” observations from OFSTED.

That's a lot more than 3...

Ah yes but it's all good stuff because **INDIGO** is:

- A practical training experience that fits neatly into existing lesson planning.
- Aligned to, and supported by, the National Strategies.
- Practical, relevant and flexible.
- Personalised to suit workload, time available and individual needs.
- Providing face-to-face and online support provided by experts.
- Approved by the DfES.

You would say all that though wouldn't you?

Of course we would. So let someone else say it for us.

“It was brilliant as 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*

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

Gorsey Bank Primary school (teacher)

“If Indigo hadn't come along we would have had to invent it. The structure of the lessons fitted perfectly with the KS3 strategies, with assessment for learning built into every lesson.”

*Steve Brown Deputy Head
Hurst Community School*

“The dialogue between the staff and the empathy they shared was invaluable. It enabled them to identify the useful bits of ICT within numeracy and literacy.”

Phillip Paterson Head teacher St Joseph's RC Primary school

“There just isn't anything else tailored and focused so well, the method of training is exactly what we want and the materials are all good quality.”

*Steve Brown Deputy Head
Hurst Community School*

In summary - think of **INDIGO** as a cake.

All the ingredients – credibility, expertise, the QA, OFSTED reaction, pilot success, funding – come together to enhance subject-teaching, improve the learning experience, raise levels of attainment, and fulfill the CPD and ICT requirements in your School Development Plan.

The icing on the cake is that on completing at least 4 modules, all teachers will receive from **INDIGO** a certificate to accredit their 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? They're the paid training opportunities when teachers complete the **INDIGO** programme. A teacher can become an **INDIGO** expert, providing the face-to-face support within their own school and others in the area; a school can become a Training School, hosting support sessions for other schools and sharing good practice.

So you mean...

Exactly. You can have your cake and eat it too.

NEXT STEPS: For more information and for a free copy of the INDIGO Demo CD, send your name, school name and address to info@indigo-visions.co.uk, mentioning reference LF1. You can also telephone us on 0845 3000 371 and visit our website www.indigo-visions.co.uk