



Newsletter

Information Technology in Teacher Education

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(Nice Autumnal picture)

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## Bits and Bobs

### Chair's report

What a difference 4 months makes! By the time you read this, the Education white paper will have been published and we will have more of an idea of the shape of ITE over the next few years. We know it will not involve BECTA, the GTCE, BSF, the TTRB or the QCDA so will certainly be a change from the last decade. There is also a new National Curriculum on the horizon and a more fragmented school system with academies and free schools expanding rapidly.

While these changes present some challenges there should also be plenty of opportunities to look at the way we promote and provide teacher education in the future. To this end we are proposing that the summer conference this year (5-7<sup>th</sup> July at Keele) will be focussed around discussion and workshop groups to allow us a chance to digest and support each other through the changes. Booking will soon be available through a link from the ITTE website ([www.itte.org.uk](http://www.itte.org.uk)). The committee has also decided that we will continue to support the new tutors scheme for a further year despite the withdraw of TDA support. If any of you have new ICT colleagues who have been in post for less than 3 years then please can they contact me for an application form.

It is obviously sad to see the demise of BECTA and I want to commiserate with colleagues there who are being made redundant. BECTA was a good friend to ITTE and Malcolm Hunt, in particular, has made strong links in the past few years with us, including his talk at last summer's conference and his commissioning of several research reports. We are negotiating with BECTA to host these reports on the ITTE website after BECTA closes.

I am glad to report that the CfSA (Council for Subject Associations) is carrying on, although in a slimmed down form. During these times, a forum for the subject associations to work in concert and present a joint view is more important than ever and we are keen to promote the continued success of the CfSA.

Finally, on a more personal note, I wish to thank everyone in ITTE for their good wishes on the birth of Arthur. He's doing well (almost doubled his birth weight and is now 6lbs 5oz) and really liked the baby box from ITTE!

Ken ([ken.powell@canterbury.ac.uk](mailto:ken.powell@canterbury.ac.uk))

### From the Editors

Ken has already talked about the changes that are afoot in his piece above. We hope that ITTE will be able to provide information and support to our members as things develop. To this end, we think this is a good time to find out what our members are concerned about, and how best to communicate with you. To this end we are in the process of commissioning a membership survey, which we hope you will be able to respond to. We expect this to be sent round the ITTE email list early in the new year, and your responses will

be used to inform our future work. We hope you will all put aside a few minutes to respond.

In this edition, we aim to keep you updated on the work we are doing; the VITAL project from Helen Boutlon , some useful links from Scott (formerly of the TDA) on Games based learning, New Resources: e-safety for primary from Sarah Younie, an update Council for Subject Associations from Gavin Rhoades and an update on Becta from Malcolm Hunt. Just goes to show, that while we await the white paper, life in teacher education continues apace.

That's all from the editors for the moment. Helena will be taking a break for 6 months as she awaits the arrival of baby Gillespie on Christmas Eve, so its over to Alison now.....

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Alison Hramiak [A.Hramiak@shu.ac.uk](mailto:A.Hramiak@shu.ac.uk)

## News



### **Exciting new discussion forum for ITE Trainees**

Dr Helen Boulton

Reader in Technology Enhanced Learning and Teaching

School of Education, Nottingham Trent University

VITAL is a site that was set up by the Open University and e-skills UK funded by a £5.6m government scheme as one of the main providers of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for teachers. Its purpose is to provide innovative development opportunities for specialists who are teaching technology (IT/Computing) as a subject, and for all teachers using ICT to enhance teaching in other subjects.

Vital recognises teachers as the experts in pedagogy and aims to support them in sharing with, and learning from, their peers through a national community website available at [www.vital.ac.uk](http://www.vital.ac.uk). The ITTE Committee have worked with VITAL to set up an area on the VITAL web site for Trainee Teachers across England to meet as a community and share experiences. To join the VITAL community trainees will need to register with the site (this is free), navigate to the trainee teacher area: <http://www.vital.ac.uk/community/course/view.php?id=745> and enter the passkey which is 1tte214 (they're 1's not l's) so that you can register with this area of the community. There are many other areas of the VITAL site that trainees will find interesting and relevant to being a trainee teacher for example the Keynotes, Hotseats and the library of resources.

For further information contact Graham Jarvis

([G.Jarvis@leedstrinity.ac.uk](mailto:G.Jarvis@leedstrinity.ac.uk))

or Helen Boulton

([helen.boulton@ntu.ac.uk](mailto:helen.boulton@ntu.ac.uk)).

### **Games Based Learning**

Scott Colfer - Digital Project Manager

Project blog: <http://digitaldads.wordpress.com>

Twitter: @youngdads

<http://www.mediafordevelopment.org.uk/>

*An update, below, from Scott Colfer, who has been doing some work in the field of games based learning. He's sent us some links and details of things he's been involved in. Contact Scott if you'd like to become involved in his projects (Ed)*

I briefly worked at Becta and managed to get funding in to the use of video games based learning to engage 14-19 year olds who are disengaged from schools but not from learning, and this is now live:

<http://www.wlv.ac.uk/Default.aspx?page=25083>

I know that ITTE are interested in games based learning so thought I'd flag this up as a follow-up to our visit to Scotland a couple of years ago (<http://homepage.ntlworld.com/anthony.pickford2/Games/index.html>).

The new research comprises of two documents: one exploring the cultural validity of video games, and one looking at specific applications (and includes reference to Tony Fisher's research).

I'm now working on a digital project to support young dads the official online space is under development but the project blog can be found here: <http://digitaldads.wordpress.com> – if any of the proposed work sounds of interest or any of your schools/colleges/learning providers have access to young dads that they'd like to support then I'd be very happy to chat about any opportunities!

### **New Resources: e-safety for primary**

Dr Sarah Younie

Principal Lecturer, Education

De Montfort University, Leicester

[syounie@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:syounie@dmu.ac.uk)

ITTE created a working party to produce resources specifically for ITT on e-safety for primary, to complement the resources on secondary that have already been developed.

The resources are now on the ITTE site. The page can be viewed by going to Publications à E-safety in Primary ITT (we had to abbreviate title in the menu, full title appears on page).

The URL for this page is: <http://www.itte.org.uk/node/335>. The resources can be downloaded directly from this page. The article is also on the front page of the site at the moment.

We would like to acknowledge the support of the TDA in this work with ITTE on e-safety. Also Gavin Rhoades for his work on the website with this. Colleagues who contributed to this resource development were; John Woollard, Graham Jarvis, Tony Pickford, Andrew Csizmadia, Kate Watson & myself. I would like to extend a special thank you to John Woollard for leading on this.



### **Council for Subject Associations Update**

Gavin Rhoades

[G.M.Rhoades@wlv.ac.uk](mailto:G.M.Rhoades@wlv.ac.uk)

Helena Gillespie

[h.gillespie@uea.ac.uk](mailto:h.gillespie@uea.ac.uk)

ITTE remains a member of the Council for Subject Associations. In these times of educational change it is vital that we band together with likeminded organisations as much as possible. Here is an update on the topics discussed at their latest meeting, attended by Gavin Rhoades. If you have any comment or questions about the CfSA, please contact Helena Gillespie or another member of the committee.

#### 1. OCR – Mapping out the curriculum for the future

There was a talk from OCR about potential changes to the exams system under the new Government. If you would like a copy of their presentation and notes, please contact Gavin.

#### 2. Text books authored by principal examiners

Several members raised concerns about the 'wash back' of examinations in narrowing the topics taught in schools. It was stated that the requirements of the National Curriculum are not being met because schools are focussing too narrowly on topics that lead towards the exams. John from OCR offered the exam board's view – that as soon as a qualification is established teachers want 'mark schemes' – and as soon as they have them they develop ways to

meet them as efficiently as possible. It was widely agreed that teachers and schools are under enormous pressure to meet targets. It was suggested that CfSA consider putting out a paper on this topic.

3. – ‘CfSA is a leading organisation – we were one of the first to have our budget cut’

CfSA now in a much more stable position than it was thought earlier in the year. Now have an operating budget for next year. The results of the CfSA Survey (conducted prior to the announcements of the CSR) were circulated. It is clear that many organisations are facing very challenging circumstances, and some may not even survive.

4. - CfSA meeting with Nick Gibb on 1<sup>st</sup> December:

Bernadette from NAACE wants to ask for assurances about the place of technology in light of the cuts and changes. NAACE stated that it is their understanding that some of Becta’s functions will transfer to the Department and the Department is still interested in funding the SRF and ICT Mark. David Hassell (Becta) has approached CfSA to see whether the SAs would be interested in taking ownership of the Becta resources. It was agreed that David would contact SAs who would then get in touch with David Hassell themselves. The Government has introduced a new scheme called the ‘Open Government Licence’ (look on National Archives site for more details) – looks as though we can cherry pick the resources we want. This also applies to the QCDA site.

It was suggested that CfSA provide a 1 side paper on SAs to go in the minister’s red box – to try and avoid any misconceptions about what CfSA does. It was further suggested that we need to sell CfSA to the minister and explain what we can do to help – and how we represent exceptional value for money, we are a united voice, we offer high quality CPD to our members. Should emphasise how we embody subject knowledge and can provide a conduit from Government to our members and back again. The invitation is for SA chief executives. Unclear at the moment how many people can be taken. A note will be sent around to canvass availability for 1<sup>st</sup> December. We will bring you an update on this meeting as soon as we can.

#### 5. The Primary Curriculum

CfSA has been approached by the OU who are looking into the development of the primary curriculum. Robin Alexander (Cambridge Primary Review) has some funding for a 2 year project reviewing the primary curriculum – CfSA has been invited to send people to an initial meeting in January 2011 (Note – Helena is a part of this group taking the Cambridge Primary Review forward – more details in future Newsletters)

## **Becta – latest news**

ITTE have been working closely with Becta to see how their substantial assets can remain accessible to the Teacher Education community. Here is a letter we recently received which gives the latest news.

Dear Ken

Following on from September's update, we are now able to provide you with details of the way Becta's work is continuing to provide benefits for schools and colleges, and the important activities areas that government is going to continue.

As Becta's revised work programme for 2010-11 heads towards conclusion, it is great to see some of our long standing programmes of work continuing to have value.

**The ICT Services Framework** has been structured to ease the burden on schools and colleges investing in and maintaining effective ICT systems. The approved suppliers (<http://news.becta.org.uk/display.cfm?resID=42459&page=1657&catID=1614>) announced on 8th November, have successfully completed a rigorous evaluation process and have demonstrated their capability to meet our technical and service requirements and to understand the needs of the education sector.

We are now in the final stages of the release of **parental engagement** resources (supporting online reporting) to front line users in schools and to those who support schools. This brings to an early end the parental engagement programme and will see practical resources, frameworks, tools, exemplar activities, video based and print materials handed over. At a meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> November, for those who have been involved in the delivery and support of the programme, colleagues from schools will be updating on their most recent experiences, and advising on how to use these resources to support other schools.

Our **ICT Excellence Awards**, supported by Toshiba, FrogTrade and Guardian Education, were presented to the winning schools and authorities on 14 October. Barry Island Primary, Barry and Childwall Valley Primary School, Liverpool were announced as the joint winners of Best whole school UK Primary (<http://awards.becta.org.uk/display.cfm?resID=42454>). Best whole

school UK secondary was awarded to Egglecliffe School, Stockton-on-Tees. Congratulations to all the winning schools and authorities, details of which can be found at [www.becta.org.uk/excellenceawards](http://www.becta.org.uk/excellenceawards)

Becta has published its report on **School Management Information Systems and Value for Money 2010** report ([http://localauthorities.becta.org.uk/upload-dir/downloads/becta\\_report\\_on\\_mis\\_2010.pdf](http://localauthorities.becta.org.uk/upload-dir/downloads/becta_report_on_mis_2010.pdf)) to provide advice and guidance to Local Authorities to help them ensure that their procurement of school MIS products and services is in accordance with EU and UK procurement law. The report also indicates a number of ways in which costs and bureaucratic burdens may be reduced, competition and choice enhanced and overall value for money improved.

### **Continuing Key areas of Becta's work**

In September we were able to confirm that following successful and constructive negotiations with the DfE and BIS, there was a commitment to continue key areas of Becta's work. Over the last two months, we have continued these discussions and arrangements are now in place to transfer a number of functional areas to DfE and the Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS) in the New Year.

Transferring from Becta to DfE by end February 2011 are:

- The **policy development, liaison and support** function, which will provide evidence informed policy advice to ministers and senior officials on the way technology can help shape educational policy and delivery. This function will also develop, manage and coordinate processes for producing Ministerial briefings in response to Parliamentary Questions, MP correspondence, and other letters or emails
- The **research and analysis** function. This area will specify commission, manage and publish small issue-focused studies relating to schools, young people and technology. The function will also cover international and technology developments and trends
- The function leading on the development of **relationships, with private and public sector suppliers** and educational stakeholders, to ensure procurement strategies are appropriate to the needs of educational purchasers and acceptable to industry
- The **ICT service frameworks** function, which will continue to conduct effective EU compliant procurement competitions and contract manage the procurement frameworks, ensuring compliance with delivery

standards, contractual requirements and continual improvement. This function will also monitor performance of the approved suppliers and work with external stakeholders to ensure adoption of the standards

- A function focussing on **nationally negotiating favourable pricing**, and which will consider global licensing strategies and agreements, broadband services and educational resources for the schools sector. This function will look to ensure that arrangements remain best value and are not adversely impacted by commercial changes
- Three functions focussed on **national standards and authentication**. One will work with local authorities and Regional Broadband Consortia to improve and develop authentication services, including inter-federation services with the Employee Authentication Service (EAS); a second will lead the development of developing open IT standards for education, such as the Common File Format for Interactive Whiteboards, which will also work with industry to ensure take up of these; and a third will lead on technical, accessibility and environmental standards for ICT in schools
- The development and maintenance of the online **Self Review Framework** evaluation tool for schools, including contract management, functional changes, and issues relating to user support and access. This function will also manage external grant/contract for **ICT Mark** administration and promotion; and establish and deliver training and assessment services for ICT Mark Assessors
- The maintenance and development of the **Information Management Strategy** framework and online tool, to reflect legal, technical and practice developments
- The provision of advice to policy leads and to Ministers on **e-safety and ISP accreditation** standards, and the promotion of e-safety issues and effective strategies

Between now and the end of February, DfE will be defining how these functions will operate, and the roles that these areas will play to inform and respond to the broader education policy agendas. Further information on these developments will be released by DfE in the New Year.

**The transition to closure** Work is currently underway to plan the efficient and careful closure of the **Becta website** by end January 2011. The National Archive have now taken a 'snapshot' of the website to ensure that key content exists after the closure. This will ensure that publications produced by Becta and advice and guidance will continue to be available from the National Archive's website

(<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/webarchive/qualifications.htm>) from this month.

A key development in October was the release of the new Open Government Licence. The National Archives has developed the Open Government Licence (OGL) and the UK Government Licensing Framework to enable and encourage the free use of government information covered by Crown copyright and database rights. This move is a key element of the Government's commitment to greater transparency. All government departments and agencies are required to amend and update the copyright statements on their websites and in their publications to indicate that information can be used and re-used under the OGL. The OGL is similar to a Creative Commons attribution licence ('cc by') a key point being that this allows commercial exploitation (See <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/>).

This licence can therefore cover **Becta intellectual property** (IP). As a result, in all but a very small number of cases, Becta intellectual property and materials will be made available to anybody under this non-exclusive licence. There will be an exception on the video and photography, which cannot be used for anything other than its original purpose.

The next step is to ensure that the appropriate rights statements are put in place and links to the licence are completed. As this licence enables anybody to use any materials covered, the majority of expressions of interest for exclusive rights do now not need to be taken further. Once the statements and links are in place, we will be writing to all stakeholders, who have submitted expressions of interest or enquiries about assets, to confirm the position about materials in which they were interested.

Thank you for your continuing support and encouragement over the last weeks. That has been appreciated by all staff at Becta. If you require any further information regarding Becta's situation, then please do follow up with Malcolm Hunt or David Hassell.

Kind Regards

*Niel McLean*