



# ICT Newsletter

## December 07

### WIN AN ASUS LAPTOP!

Enter our competition inside

### A laptop for under £200 - what's the catch?

Well, none really. If you're looking for a laptop to surf the web, send emails, write documents, spreadsheets & presentations, and even video conference - put the Asus Eee PC on your Christmas list straight away.



For most of the day to day work a teacher or student does, this machine is ideal. It weighs in at under 1kg and is a little larger than a paperback

book. You can connect USB devices, printers and projectors and there is a built in webcam and microphone. Open Office, which will load from and save to Microsoft Office, is bundled in.

RM are selling a version called the RM Minibook at £169 (+VAT)

So is there a catch? If you don't want to do more than it's



designed for, there's no problem. It uses the Linux operating system, not Windows. This, combined with

the small amount of memory, means that adding other programs to it won't be easy. But these are limitations you can live with for the price.

For everyday tasks like sending emails, surfing and editing documents, the Asus starts quickly, is easy to use and doesn't break your back carrying it home.

You'll be hearing a lot more about this little beauty over the next while.



### Using Live Web Cams in the Classroom

Views from live web cameras are available from all over the world. An extensive collection of cameras can be found at <http://search.earthcam.com/>

Some are live video feeds and others are still pictures which update at regular intervals. You can use these cameras are part of lessons on other countries, watch animals in zoos and in the wild, etc.

It is easy to embed the view in a PowerPoint presentation or just link directly to the camera itself.

Some advice on this can be found at <http://radicalwebcamgeography.co.uk/2007/04/02/creating-a-web-cam-wall/>

Here are a few examples of live web cams -

#### Loch Ness

<http://www.camstreams.com/asx.asp?user=camglobal3>

#### Times Square

[http://www.earthcam.com/usa/newyork/timessquare/asx/tsq\\_stream.asx](http://www.earthcam.com/usa/newyork/timessquare/asx/tsq_stream.asx)

#### Santa's Office

<http://www.santaclauslive.com/Santa1.asx>



Santa's Office Webcam

## Refurbishment of Training Rooms

The training rooms at Summerhill are being refurbished to reflect more accurately the ICT setups in schools. We are installing a server and roof mounting our data projectors. There will be a bedding-in period until we get everything up and running correctly but it shouldn't affect any of the planned courses

## ICT Twilight Sessions

Next term the Education ICT Team will run a series of twilight sessions in the training rooms at Summerhill. These will include Photo Story 3, e-learning introduction, blogging and several others. There will also be an opportunity for teachers to attend drop-in sessions where members of the team will be available to provide advice and support. More information next term

## Do You Moodle?



I've been working with Moodle for some time now and I'm getting reasonably good at it. Its the sort of thing you can spend hours at - or just a few minutes - whatever takes your fancy. I sometimes moodle in the bedroom, sometimes at work, mostly I moodle in the evenings while watching The Bill.

I'm usually not alone. If I care to look I can often find someone else moodling away at the same time.

Of course, I'm talking about Moodle - the course management system (CMS) - a free, Open Source software package designed using sound pedagogical principles, to help teachers create effective online learning.

I'm not alone because worldwide there are literally millions of teachers and learners with moodle accounts. Here in Aberdeen City our own moodle site (Abernet Courses) has around 300 users representing teachers and pupils from all over the

city. Eight of our academies have active moodle sites and the number is growing as is the level of activity on the sites. Aberdeen's teachers are getting to grips with e-learning.

If you want to know more about how moodle can help you and your learners communicate just drop me an email.

[relliott@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:relliott@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

### Jist Haiverin

Most of the items in this newsletter have been taken from the new Education ICT blog which can be found at

[www.abernet.org.uk/jisthaiverin](http://www.abernet.org.uk/jisthaiverin)

In the blog you'll find a mix of information, ideas, links and random thoughts related to ICT.



## Education City

Most schools have been using Education City for, at least, the past year. As it proved a valuable resource, it was decided to fund the purchase of a year's subscription from central funds for all of our primary schools.



The website contains a range of activities that are mapped to the objectives of 5-14 Maths, Language, Science and Modern Languages (French). A Curriculum Grid enables teachers to identify specific activities that will reinforce learning and teaching. It is particularly useful as a whole class teaching resource when accessed via an interactive whiteboard. When children complete activities on an individual basis, their progress can be tracked and monitored to assist teachers with assessment. The Phoenix team have provided the required information that will enable teachers to use the SuccessTracker facility. Staff that attended the recent demonstration by one of the Education City team were very impressed by the ease of site navigation and the quality of the activities. Most importantly..... the children have fun while they learn.

If you have not looked at Education City we would like to encourage you to do so. This is one resource that, if you don't use, you will lose!

# WIN AN ASUS LAPTOP!

The competition is open to all staff in Aberdeen City schools.

Entries should be received by Thursday 20th December 2007.

All answers must be emailed to

[competition@aberdeen-education.org.uk](mailto:competition@aberdeen-education.org.uk)

The email should contain the entrant's name and school and a list of numbered answers.

*No other form of entry will be accepted.*

The prize is an RM Asus minibook, kindly donated by Research Machines. The winner will receive the prize in January when the machines are first commercially available in this country.

The winner will be the first correct answer drawn on the 8th of January 2008.

The winner and the answers will be published on Aberdeen Grid for Learning ([www.aberdeen-education.org.uk](http://www.aberdeen-education.org.uk)) and on the Education ICT blog ([www.abernet.org.uk/jist\\_haiverin](http://www.abernet.org.uk/jist_haiverin))



## Education ICT Team Quiz Christmas 2007

These clues should lead you to the names of schools in Aberdeen City.

*Example - Is this where the Royals crossed the water? - Kingsford*

- 1 Sounds like all the numbers from 1 to 6 are here.
- 2 The golfer calls from on high.
- 3 All the windows must be open in the vestibule.
- 4 Did the Prince go at 100 mph?
- 5 Is this where the Granite City minds its P's and Q's?
- 6 Heavyweight at 270.
- 7 Short Jillian comes into Aberdeen.
- 8 It must be rough underfoot in this forest.
- 9 Endear in a muddle.
- 10 Heaven's Gate and People's Temple.
- 11 Follow the foggy rules.
- 12 Sounds like he went by foot then horse.
- 13 The headless grin is over.
- 14 Phil's sofa pal's out to pasture.
- 15 Is this where Willie Miller gets the cash to buy new players?
- 16 You'll need to contribute to this lunar feature.
- 17 Fit Cinders wis warin' at the dancin'.
- 18 Jethro's with the ordnance survey.
- 19 Is this what the Aberdeen bully said to his victim?
- 20  $2 + 2.4$  is sacred.