



TOMORROW'S CLIMATE Today's Challenge™

Two successful bids to the Defra Climate Challenge Fund have provided WMnet with £350 000 to develop Climate Change resources and activities over the next two years. One bid is concerned with the development and promotion of young people's climate change messages and Margaret Danby will continue to lead on this project.

The other provides financial support to renew and develop the WMnet Climate Change portal; Stephanie Davies joins the WMnet team in September as



Portal Editor.

Plans include a major launch event at Millennium Point on 9th November which will include the regional launch of the DfES s3 sustainable self-evaluation framework for schools.

MONITORING CLIMATE CHANGE

The GLOBE Programme, in partnership with WMnet, has produced a set of short video clips in which pupils show how to monitor the climate and a climate change specialist from the Met Office explains how scientists use the data collected by schools. The videos provide an introduction to monitoring



the climate and cover recording temperature, green up, green down and aircraft contrails. There are separate videos tailored for primary and secondary schools. The videos and further information about GLOBE are available from the climate Change portal (<http://climatechange.wmnet.org.uk>).

ICT Strategy Shifts to Becta

Changes at the DfES mean that the work of the ICT in Schools division, what we once used to know as NGfL has moved to Becta. This places Becta firmly in control of the DfES technology agenda, Harnessing Technology and the technical requirements of Every Child Matters.

E-safety on 30th November 2006

A one day event for Safeguarding Children Boards and School Improvement Teams will feature presentations from Becta on e-safety and Internet Service Provider accreditation, a presentation from Stephen Carrick-Davies (CEO Childnet) and a further presentation from the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Agency (CEOP) on social networking services such as BEBO and MySpace.

Application details are available from www.wmnet.org.uk/go/esafetyconference

WMnet has joined the **Internet Watch Foundation (IWF)** on behalf of its member councils. This means all can receive automatic daily updates to their lists of sites displaying illegal content and amend their own protection against providing access to materials which are illegal under English law.

Birmingham BITES 2006 – open to all Millennium Point 11th October.

BITES 2006 BITES 2006 focuses on Transforming Learning from early years to higher education and adult learning. Seminar sessions will cover Learning Platforms, Building Schools of the Future, Mobile Learning, developing technical standards, e-safety, school self review and evaluation, and learning at home. There will be a live demonstration theatre, expert Q&A sessions key messages from strategic leaders and policy makers and exhibition of more than 80 technology suppliers. Register at www.bgfl.org/bites

Rock Idol



If you have access to video-conferencing facilities, it isn't too late for school bands to enter the West Midlands' heats of the national Rock Idol competition. Over 100 bands have entered from around the country for the regional heats so competition is likely to be keen but everyone stands a chance of winning outstanding prizes for their school.

West Midlands heat – 17th and 18th October

National finals – 29th and 30th November

Remember, even if your band is brand new you still have a chance in the novice category.

Visit <http://www.rockidol.org.uk> for details.

A Teachers' Guide to Video Conferencing

Following the successful website on "An Illustrated Guide to Video Conferencing", Becta has funded Simon White of WMnet to develop a new section aimed at teachers. It offers practical help on using video conferencing in the classroom.

The website covers six key themes and includes video and flash animations and is easy to use for teachers and school managers interested in using video-conferencing. The content is based on material developed by the ATHENA EIC EAZ in Birmingham and has been presented at an international conference to widespread acclaim. <http://www.wmnet.org.uk/vc>

Online Assessment in the Foundation Stage



Smart Cat Games from Screen Learning is available free of charge to schools participating in the West Midlands pilot. A series of fun and engaging games, designed specifically for Foundation-stage children, build up detailed and accurate profiles of individual abilities and needs. Details are available from the WMnet portal.

Beyond Pathe artist in residence



During the summer term, graphic artist, Stuart Mugridge worked in two schools in Staffordshire and Worcestershire. Working alongside teachers, advisors and students to explore the British Pathe archive and to interpret its contents creatively, Stuart has created exciting results. The resources and an explanation of the processes involved will be available online shortly at www.beyondpathe.org.uk.