

NORTHERN GRID FOR LEARNING ANNOUNCES NEW DEALS FOR SCHOOLS AT BETT 2006

Northern Grid for Learning will be demonstrating the many ways that broadband enabled resources are transforming teaching and learning on the Teaching with Technology joint stand C110 at BETT 2006. With on-stand demonstrations of the free of charge content available via the Northern Grid portal, the team will also be announcing the latest deals that have been organised for schools within the Northern Grid network.

One of the highlights is the announcement of an agreement with Maths2XL which will give schools a 20% cost saving and a chance to have real input into the further development of this useful resource. Schools using the software will be able to provide feedback and make suggestions that will allow the pedagogy to truly drive the product development.

Mel Philipson, Manager of Northern Grid, explains, "Within our region we were able to achieve full broadband connectivity two years ahead of target. One of the benefits of this is that we have been able to devote more time and effort to working with schools to deliver content and resources that allow teachers to make best use of the broadband service that they now have access to. A key element of this is providing advice and running training sessions, but we also look to commercial software partners to find opportunities to offer our schools access to resources at good prices. The Maths2XL agreement is a great example of this."

Maths2XL is an effective supplementary maths programme that is currently making a real impact on the UK education. The proven audio-visual tool includes animated graphics and tutorial support and is designed for key stage 3 and 4. Its flexibility means that it can be used for whole class teaching on an interactive whiteboard, for small group work via networked PCs or even at home for individual use. Teachers within the Northern Grid region have already expressed the benefit they see in using the tool as Phil Holden, Chantry Middle School, Morpeth commented, "Maths2XL is an excellent resource that makes difficult

concepts easy to grasp and in which the tutor explains and demonstrates processes with a relaxed and easy to understand delivery.”

Demonstrating the many ways that broadband can enhance education Mel Philipson will also be giving a practical seminar “Making the Best of Broadband” at 14.00 on 12th January (seminar code T13). This session will offer more advice and information about how schools can use freely available broadband learning activities to enhance lessons. The particular focus will be on Early Years, SEN and history. A case study example will also show how personalised learning has been embraced by South Tyneside schools.

Northern Grid for Learning is one of ten Regional Broadband Consortia, several of which will be represented at BETT 2006. For further information visit the Northern Grid stand for advice about contacts in your region.

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Teaching with Technology Stand C110:

The Teaching with Technology stand is organised by Codeworks Connect, the trade association for the North East digital sector, and brings together six exciting companies; Northern Grid for Learning; Caspian Learning; deBurca; L2; Eduk8/DES Worldwide and School Alert.

About Northern Grid for Learning:

Northern Grid for Learning is the Regional Broadband Consortium for the North East. Northern Grid supports schools and local authorities to achieve national targets for ICT and promote high standards in schools.

The company works with its local authority partners and undertakes those responsibilities which they feel are more effectively delivered by regional collaboration. It aims to complement and supplement partner LA developments in ICT. Additionally it engages in a range of activities which provide best value, promote best practice and establish the region as a national centre of excellence.

For further information visit Northern Grid’s portal at www.northerngrid.org

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