

2008

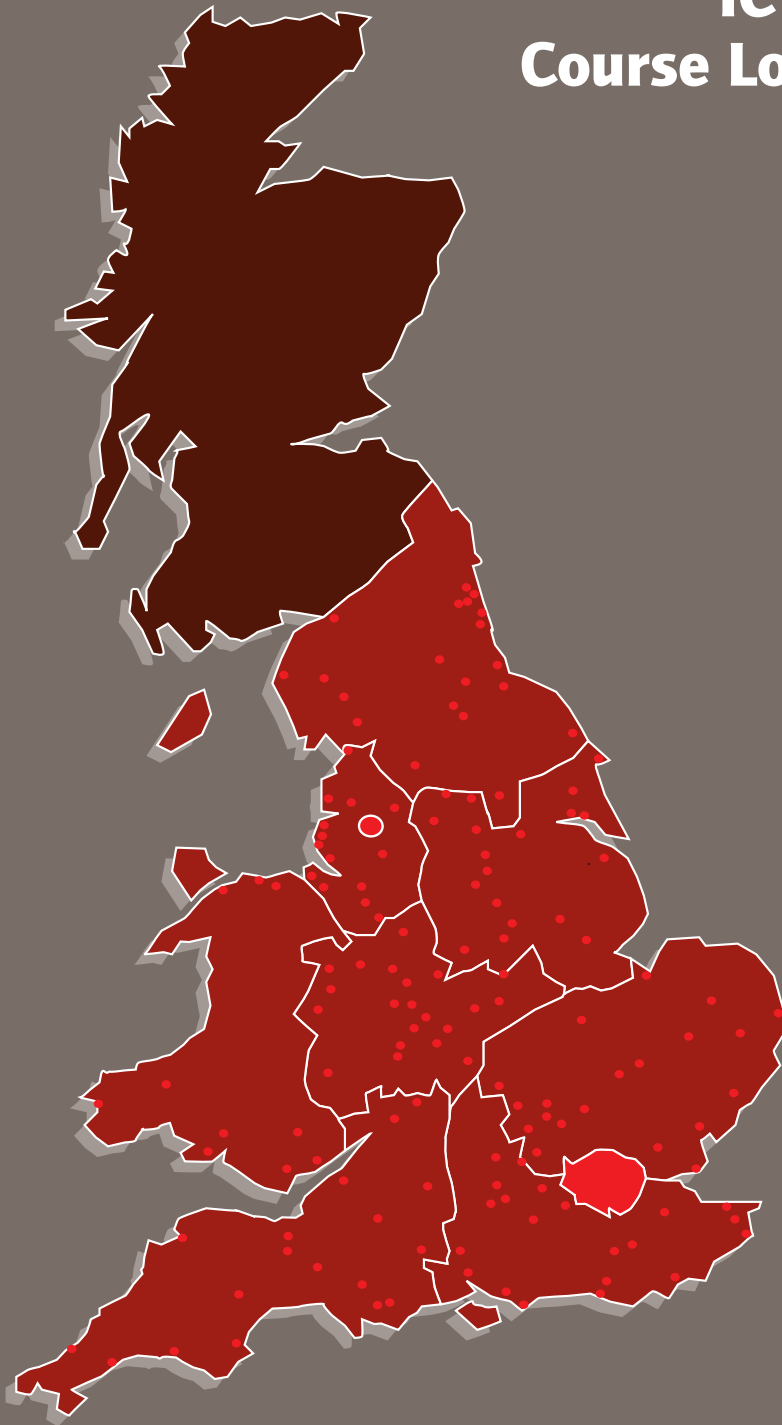
ICT TEACHER

ICT SKILLS FOR TEACHERS



FREE TRAINING COURSES

ICT Skills For Teachers Course Locations 1999–2008



Amersham
Ashington
Aylesbury
Banbury
Bangor
Barnet
Barnsley
Barnstaple
Basingstoke
Bath
Bedford
Beverly
Bexley
Birmingham
Blackburn
Blackpool
Bolton
Boston

Bournemouth
Bradford
Brent
Bridgwater
Bridlington
Brighton & Hove
Bristol
Bromley
Burnley
Bury
Bury St Edmunds
Camborne
Cambridge
Camden
Canterbury
Cardiff
Carlisle
Chelmsford

Cheltenham
Chester
Chesterfield
Chichester
Colchester
Colwyn Bay
Coventry
Crawley
Crewe
Croydon
Cwmbran
Dagenham
Darlington
Derby
Doncaster
Dorchester
Dunstable
Durham

Ealing
Esher
Exeter
Farnborough
Folkestone
Gateshead
Gloucester
Great Yarmouth
Grimsby
Guildford
Halton
Hammersmith & Fulham
Harrogate
Harrow
Hartlepool
Hastings
Haverfordwest
Havering
Hereford
Hillingdon
Hounslow
Huddersfield
Hull
Ipswich
Kendal
Kings Lynn
Kingston
Lancaster
Leamington Spa
Leeds
Leicester
Leighton Buzzard
Letchworth
Lewes
Lewisham
Lincoln
Liverpool
Loughborough
Manchester
Mansfield
Margate
Medway
Merton
Middlebrough
Milton Keynes
Neath
Newcastle upon Tyne
Newport
North Shields
Northallerton
Northampton
Norwich
Nottingham
Nuneaton
Oldham
Oswestry
Oxford
Peterborough
Plymouth

Poole
Portsmouth
Preston
Reading
Redbridge
Redditch
Rhyl
Richmond, North Yorkshire
Rochdale
Rotherham
Salford
Salisbury
Sandwell
Scarborough
Sheffield
Shrewsbury
Skipton
Slough
Solihull
South Shields
Southampton
Southend
Southport
St Austell
St Helens
Stafford
Stepney
Stockport
Stoke on Trent
Sunderland
Sutton Coldfield
Swansea
Swindon
Tameside
Tamworth
Taunton
Telford
Thurrock
Tonbridge
Torquay
Tottenham
Tower Hamlets
Wakefield
Waltham Forest
Wandsworth
Walsall
Warrington
Warwickshire
Watford
Wigan
Winchester
Wirral
Wolverhampton
Worcester
Workington
Wrexham
Yeovil
York



ICT TEACHER

NUT General Secretary's Introduction

Over the last decade we have seen a high tech revolution in our schools. One of this Government's first priorities on coming into office in 1997 was to link all schools up to the National Grid for Learning. It was a major commitment and the Government is to be commended for prioritising these resources for schools.

In the twenty first century computers are no longer confined to IT rooms. In today's schools there are computers, probably with interactive whiteboards attached, in classrooms generally. This explosion of availability of computer hardware has been more than matched by the constant development of computer educational software which is specifically developed for schools, teachers and pupils. The pace of development and change is unrelenting.

In 2008 everyone would agree that ICT is an essential tool for teachers, helping teachers with their preparation and planning and helping teachers deliver the national curriculum in the classroom. There is a constant demand by teachers for high quality, relevant ICT skills training.

The NUT campaigns for proper training in technology for teachers, and is itself a major provider of ICT skills training for teachers. Over 13,500 teachers are now able to use ICT in their teaching as a result of attending NUT courses. This is a record of which the Union, and all those involved in the delivering the NUT's ICT skills programme, are rightly proud. The NUT is, and will continue to be, committed to meeting the needs of teachers in today's classrooms.



Steve Sinnott

STEVE SINNOTT
General Secretary
National Union of Teachers

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Ongoing Success and New Initiatives

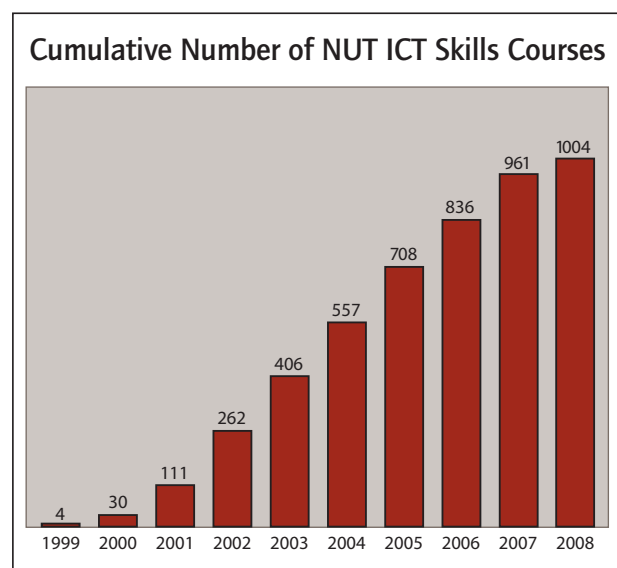
Arthur Jarman, NUT Assistant Secretary, Membership and Communications Department

The NUT is a major learning organisation, a provider of union learning for representatives and activists, and of continuous professional development for all teachers. The NUT's 'ICT Skills for Teachers' programme has been central to this development. It is an incredibly successful programme; this success is a credit to the Union's vision, commitment and organisation.

One thousand courses and still going strong!!

The NUT has just organised its 1,000th ICT skills course. Between the summer term 1999 and the spring term 2008, the NUT has organised a grand total of 1,004 ICT skills courses for teachers. This is a major achievement for the Union. Teachers' continued need for high quality, relevant ICT skills training is matched by the confidence of teachers in the NUT to provide such vital ICT skills training.

The NUT is dedicated to organising local courses, accessible to all teachers irrespective of where the teacher may live and teach. The NUT is firmly committed to organising courses in rural locations as well as city centre venues. Since 1999 ICT skills courses have been organised at 171 different locations across the whole of England and Wales from Ashington in the north east to Cambourne in the south west and from Haverfordwest in Wales to Great Yarmouth in East Anglia.



Publicising Good Practise

The NUT continues to highlight teachers' ICT training needs to education decision makers at both local and national levels. It publicises the success of its 'ICT Skills for Teachers' programme at many different forums. Local MPs are invited to visit courses running in their constituencies and they continue to show a great deal of interest in the programme. Rob Marris, MP for Wolverhampton South

West, visited a course running at the City of Wolverhampton College and Alan Keen, MP for Feltham and Heston, visited a course running at Cranford Community College. Both Rob and Alan were very impressed by the courses and enjoyed meeting teachers who were benefiting from the courses. Further reports about the Cranford and Wolverhampton courses are on pages 11 and 12.

Getting to Grips with Interactive Whiteboards

Most teachers now have interactive whiteboards in their classroom. Interactive whiteboards are without doubt a very powerful tool and an important resource for any classroom teacher, revolutionising how teachers can deliver the curriculum.

The NUT's 'ICT Skills for Teachers' programme continues to evolve and the Union has been keen to respond to the new ICT developments in the classroom. The NUT has developed an interactive whiteboard only course which follows on from the highly successful multimedia course.

An interactive whiteboard course was piloted at the Camden City Learning during the spring term 2008. The pilot course was divided into two sections, the first covering Promethean boards and the second covering SMART boards. It was very popular and demand for course places was very high. Further interactive whiteboard courses have been organised in the summer term 2008.

Sierra Leone ICT Skills Programme

In a major development the NUT is now making available its highly successful and popular 'ICT Skills for Teachers' programme to colleagues in West Africa and in particular for the benefit of women teachers in Sierra Leone. Basic ICT skills for women teachers in Sierra Leone are both an urgent and a fundamental requirement.

Working in partnership with the Sierra Leone Teachers' Union (SLTU) and with funding from the TUC International Development Learning Fund, the NUT is helping 80 women teachers develop basic ICT skills. The project funding will enable the SLTU to purchase 21 computers and to set up a computer learning centre at their headquarters in Freetown. The SLTU is committed to supporting a sustained and ongoing programme of ICT skills training for women teachers, and in time possibly introducing intermediate and advanced level courses to the programme. The computer learning centre will form a lasting legacy to the NUT/SLTU project.

It is a very exciting project and will have huge and lasting impact on the lives of women teachers in Sierra Leone. I am very proud that the NUT and the SLTU are working together on this important initiative.

The NUT's 'ICT Skills for Teachers' programme has and continues to have a huge impact on the professional and personal lives of thousands of teachers. I am extremely proud to have been involved in the ICT Skills for Teachers' programme since its inception over nine years ago.

"I found the manual, backed up by tutor support, a most effective and efficient way of learning."

*David Tocknell
Alumwell Business and Enterprise College, Walsall*

"Enjoyable, learnt lots of new things, keeps me up to date (sort of) with the pupils."

*Joseph Doherty
BBC Media Clubhouse, Brighton*

Picture Perfect



Congratulations to Philip Smith who has won the ICT Skills for Teachers photography competition. The competition was open to all participants undertaking the multimedia courses throughout England during the autumn term of 2007. Philip used his time at Herefordshire College of Technology well, using Picasa 2 to edit this stunning photograph taken during a visit to Scotland. Philip's photo appeared in the March 2008 edition of NUT's magazine, The Teacher.

Eilean Donan Castle near Kyle of Lochalsh

What did you do in the summer holidays?

Frances Roberts, Extended Schools Partnership Manager, Bristol

Well, fourteen of us spent the first week on a course improving our teaching skills – which may sound rather sad or mad! But in fact it was wonderful. While the rain splashed down outside, we explored the mysteries of PowerPoint, Excel spreadsheets, the Internet, interactive whiteboards, and much more.

This was an intermediate level course, so we all knew enough to recognise that our computers contained many features and facilities that would make our lives easier and more enjoyable, if only we knew how to use them. Repeatedly, throughout the week,

there were gasps of amazement and satisfaction, and "Oh, so that's how you do it!"

The Union had invited a varied group of teachers to attend the course. The main thing we had in common was, that for various reasons, we felt that we had been left behind in the brisk move forward in the use of ICT in the classroom.

The course, which took place in the City of Bristol College, was extremely well planned and presented, and the handbook was a marvel of clarity, especially compared with the one from the bookshop, which ended up on the other side of the room!

The tutor was informative and encouraging; he was very flexible in his approach. He was willing to respond to questions and requests about particular issues that the group raised.

By the end of the course, when our holiday started properly, we felt confident and really enthusiastic about using what we had learned but not for another four weeks.

So thank you very much for the opportunity!



Teamwork makes ICT learning easier

"Excellent leadership, good camaraderie on the course.

A very informative and enjoyable 12 weeks."

*Paula Molloy
Leicester City Learning Centre*

"Your manual is excellent."

*Mandy King
Beckenham Learning Centre*

2008 ICTeacher 3

Confidence Booster

Kendra Deacon, Primary Supply Teacher and Norfolk NUT Assistant Division Secretary and Young Teachers' Representative

The multimedia course held at the College of West Anglia, in the spring term of 2007, was a great way to keep up-to-date with my CPD. As a supply teacher, not attached to a school, I often miss out on CPD training. Even better, it was free.

The whole experience increased my confidence in all areas covered. In particular, I had never really used Publisher before. Probably one of the most useful things I learnt was how to format a picture so that it didn't jump around all over the page or move the text. This small thing has probably saved me hours of frustration!

It was great to have dedicated time to experiment with the different programmes and media, with an expert on hand to immediately ask questions and get you out of tricky situations you found yourself in!

There was a wide range of age groups on the course. It wasn't just teachers who had been in the job before ICT was such a big part of teaching. There were young teachers like myself there too. We all got along well and I got my face and name known as Assistant Division Secretary for the NUT. I had the opportunity to informally answer questions people had about the Union, or any problems they were facing in school which perhaps they might not usually have contacted the NUT about, but were glad they asked!. I felt that as well as learning about ICT, participant's awareness of the NUT, or who to contact if they wanted to know more at a later date, increased.

I have used the presentation techniques I learnt in the Norfolk NUT newsletter to make reports more visually exciting. I would highly recommend the course for networking, as well as increasing understanding of ICT.



Focusing on the digital future

Techno Freebie

Cis Short, Teacher and ICT Coordinator, Charles Saer Catholic Primary School, Fleetwood, Lancashire

The NUT's intermediate ICT skills course was one of the best freebies I've had in a while.

My children and I laugh when we reminisce about the old days and my first techno freebie - a second hand Amiga. I got the reputation for being a 'mouse basher' whenever it slowed down or crashed. Fortunately, technology and my patience have improved since then.

Although I consider myself to have evolved into a fairly good computer user, I'm always on the lookout to gain more experience. I found the intermediate level useful for several reasons, not least it gave me the opportunity to formalise training and acquire a recognised certificate for my CV.

Even though I was already familiar with most of the work covered, there were a number of highly useful bits and bobs I was unaware of which I have been able to make frequent use of, both in and out of the classroom, and to pass on to colleagues. Specifically, it boosted my confidence in making presentations using PowerPoint, enabling me to whip up teaching resources more quickly.

Getting out and about into college and meeting new people was a welcome break in my hectic weekly routine. Admittedly, we all seemed to agree it was tiring at the end of the day, but once we got into it we didn't want to pack up and go home. I felt quite privileged to be part of such a snug little group in comfy surroundings. Despite our range of abilities, all our needs were catered for. We had a smashing tutor.

I doubt I would have ever got round to attending an ICT course without the NUT's help, they contacted me to offer the training. It was free, and most importantly, it was local. Well worth it. I'd love to do more.

Blogging Good Time

Following is a snapshot of the blogs kept by participants on the intermediate course run at Kendal College over the autumn term 2007.

WEEK 1: CLARE HUGGONSON

This week we had an interesting introduction by Steve. This made me reflect upon how I can use my Information Learning Technology more interactively. The new email site looks interesting and so I will try using it, both at school, and at home. I think we will be using Virtual Learning Environments much more and I know my head teacher is keen to set one up. When it will get done and who will keep it up to date is another case!

WEEK 2: ANDREA ELVEY

Another enjoyable week!

It has been really good for me to get out of the house and do something constructive for myself and my career!!!!

I have again learnt loads and have produced something at the end of it!!

Really enjoyed the opportunity to work with the others in the group, we had a right laugh and we were proud of the results. Not sure about the music though!

Thanks Steve - again v useful :)

WEEK 3: HELEN MILLAR

Enjoyed lesson. Discovered new animations and effects and new methods of putting PowerPoint together. Will need to adapt from home as have Office 2000 so fewer effects available. Will be looking at how to include videos, music, etc, to consolidate what learnt. Definitely

feel that have learnt a lot over last couple of weeks and will need to continue to practise to be able to produce PowerPoint for use in class.

Found TV clip very interesting as showing use of whiteboards/PowerPoint in primary setting.

WEEK 4: CLARE

This week it was useful to review the previous work done on spreadsheets. New stuff learnt today included using the 'if' function to change the children's scores to levels, adding a header and footer and subtracting one value from another. These will be useful for the SAT's test analysis spreadsheets.

WEEK 5: ANDREA

What a crackin' session!!

Really useful and jam packed with LOTS of info!!!!

Again really enjoyed it!!

WEEK 6: HELEN

Enjoyed lesson. Found it very useful as not used Excel much for 'accounts'. Had covered some of the basics on previous ICT course, but learnt more shortcuts tonight. Tend to use it as a database! Everyone working hard and helping each other.

Thanks Steve

ICT is Union Work

Chris Brooksbank, Furness NUT Association Secretary

I visited the course at Kendal College shortly before the participants break on the Tuesday evening session to give the participants and the tutor the opportunity to give feedback on the course.

My first impression was of a good group, attentively engaged in a well resourced room. They were investigating options with, and the capability of, a word processing programme creating interesting text inserts and overlays (I think)!

The tutor was responding well to questions and comments and was clearly knowledgeable of the content concerned. The class were engaged in trying out options on their own projects/documents.

The tutor had a welcoming, open and responsive attitude and seemed pleased to give me the chance to discuss the course with the participants during their coffee break.

The participants gave unanimous praise for the approach of the tutor, and had been pleased with his structured input and guidance. For some it was a refresher course and covered some old ground, but did give them the chance to practise and extend their skills with the ICT technology. For others, it provided a good introduction.

This showed a good degree of personalised learning.

The learners all commented that it was well worthwhile. They also commented on the positive social (meet and chat) element, and shared concerns and experiences of their professional lives:

- one member said she would become the school representative (as they don't currently have one);
- two members raised concerns about job opportunities for supply teaching since the introduction of Planning, Preparation and Assessment and Higher Level Teaching Assistants being used for teacher cover;
- one member shared concerns about management in her school;
- three members shared concerns about pupil behaviour and the impact of exclusion on schools and children;
- one member expressed great satisfaction in her jobs, working in two rural primary schools; and
- one member raised questions about pensions and retirement options which I was able to respond to with a contact recommendation, after explaining some of the new options given in the latest changes.

I was very impressed with the professional commitment of the participants and the tutor involved in this course, which has clearly been of benefit to the teachers as learners and as aware professionals.

"Gave me greater confidence to use computers."

Jack Mortby
Chelmsford WEA

"I have enjoyed this course, it has been challenging yet achievable."

Linda Savage
Chesterfield College

NUT's ICT Skills Programme Rolls Out in West Africa

Project Background

Samidha Garg, NUT Principal Officer, Equal Opportunities/Race and Joint Project Manager for the NUT/SLTU 'ICT Skills for Women Teachers' Project

The National Union of Teachers has been successful in securing funding from the TUC International Development Learning Fund for an ICT Skills for Women Teachers project in Sierra Leone. The funding will enable a pilot programme, working with the Sierra Leone Teachers' Union (SLTU), for four ICT skills courses, accommodating 20 female teachers, eighty teachers in total. The programme will be based on the NUT's successfully established ICT Skills for Teachers programme and will reflect the National Union of Teachers commitment to high quality professional development and training, as well as to international development.

The NUT invited existing partners to work with the NUT to contribute to the project, including the Sierra Leone Teachers' Union, British Council in Sierra Leone, the VSO in Sierra Leone, Education Action International, Education International Africa, ITUC and the DfID office in Sierra Leone. The courses will be delivered at the SLTU's training centre for teachers, known as Hotel 5 10. Partners will meet as a Steering Group on a regular basis to develop the programme.

It is expected that the ICT skills gained from the programme will facilitate participants' capacity to develop their learning further through electronic networks and communication links, for example through the internet. It is anticipated that this will contribute to the teaching provided by women teachers to their pupils. It is also hoped that, once they have completed the programme, the teachers will disseminate what they have learnt to colleagues, thus maximising the impact of the programme.

The pilot will be fully evaluated and it is expected that a successful pilot will lead to the submission of a further bid to facilitate a similar programme in two other African countries. The sustainable benefits of the programme will additionally include the potential to develop capacity within the teacher organisations that work with the NUT on the programme.



Pupils offer a warm welcome

"I have done the Intermediate ICT skills course and I have greatly improved in confidence and ability because of the help I received. I am now almost computer literate!"

*Liz Medlyn
City College Plymouth*

"Brilliantly led and taught."

*Nessan Danaher
Leicester City Learning Centre*

Focusing on the Future of Sierra Leone

Jane Messervy, NUT Project Worker for the 'ICT Skills for Women Teachers' Project

In January 2008, I joined two NUT colleagues, Arthur Jarman and Andrew Parry Williams as well as Kofi Amo, a tutor from The College of North East London, on an intense three-day needs analysis trip to Sierra Leone. The principal purpose of the trip was to meet with Officials from the Sierra Leone Teachers' Union (SLTU) to discuss all the practical issues involved in setting up an 'ICT Skills for Women Teachers' programme in Sierra Leone.

Whilst in Freetown we met with the Abdulai Koroma, the SLTU President, Davidson Kuyateh, SLTU Secretary General and Hawa Koroma, SLTU Project Coordinator. Sarah Umu Sankoh and Kathleen Charles, two women Sierra Leonian teachers, and former NUT sponsored Chevening Scholars, were also involved in the meetings.

We discussed the ICT skills programme and agreed that the courses would be held over 5 days during school holidays. We also discussed the best way to recruit women teachers to the courses as well as how the SLTU could adopt and use the NUT's basic ICT skills course materials. We agreed that the first course would take place during the spring term holidays and the remaining courses would take place in summer holidays.

We also agreed the purchase of computers for a learning centre, which would be based at the SLTU Headquarters in Freetown, as well as the recruitment of local tutors, who would be commissioned to carry out the ICT training for the 80 SLTU women members.

One of the highlights of our trip was our visit to Kathleen Charles' school, the Freetown Teachers' Training College Practicing Elementary School. We visited each class and spoke to the teachers and students, exchanging information and experiences. We were all very impressed by the dedication of the teachers and the enthusiasm of the pupils. The Year 1 class had 73 pupils and they were all incredibly well behaved. By the end of the trip we all gained a good understanding of the Sierra Leone education system and the many difficulties faced by teachers and children there.

Following the recent election of President Ernest Koroma and his Government, there is a feeling of hope and determination to bring about a significant change in Sierra Leone which the NUT is extremely proud to be involved in.



Project team from L-R: Hawa Koroma, Andrew Parry Williams, Sarah Umu Sankoh, Kofi Amo, Mohamed Bangura, Jane Messervy, Davidson Kuyateh, Abdulai Koroma, Arthur Jarman, Kathleen Charles, Morris Conteh



Class 1 give a big hello to their UK visitors

"This course has given me confidence to use the ICT equipment in work more effectively."

Julie Samuels

City of Wolverhampton College

"My developing confidence has greatly enhanced my classroom teaching."

Sandra Pedder

Gillingham Adult Education Centre

Learning is a Journey... Not a Destination



Master class in digital photography

Mark Hughes, TUC Tutor, Norwich Trade Union Studies Unit

The unionlearn Trade Union Studies Centre, which is part of City College Norwich, has been facilitating ICT courses for the NUT for a number of years, but has never had the opportunity of delivering the multimedia programme due to a lack of resources such as access to interactive whiteboards.

Recently a unique opportunity arose, through reorganisation at the college, which has enabled the Trade Union Studies Centre to be relocated to a new venue which is fully furnished with new Information and Learning Technology. With interactive whiteboards installed we are now able to run the NUT's multimedia course for local teachers.

This investment by the College has enabled the Trade Union Studies Centre to offer the NUT's multimedia programme, which it has facilitated twice since the beginning of the academic year. These courses have been great because it has given us the opportunity to explore the issues that surround the use and adoption of ILT. As always there is a mixed reaction, which facilitates a healthy debate, but the Trade Union Studies Centre believes that the general consensus indicates that the adoption of ILT into the practice of teaching creates different options for the teacher.

The constant demands to accommodate new initiatives and to learn something new, is sometimes daunting. It is hoped that the chance to get to grips with new technologies will assist in taking on these new challenges and help teachers to get to grips with the ever increasing demands made upon them.

'With a new home comes a new way of doing things' and the Trade Union Studies Unit at Norwich is considering adopting 'learning is a journey not a destination' as its new saying. It is hoped that plenty more people will come onboard for the ride.

"The course has given me more confidence to use ICT at home and in the workplace."

*Simon New
Greenway Centre, Bristol*

"The tutor was great. We covered a vast range of material. Thank you NUT for this opportunity."

*Dina Warren
Harrow College*

Interactive Whiteboards Rule

Excerpt from 'The Teacher' magazine

More teachers than ever are using interactive whiteboards as part of their daily practice. A recent survey from Becta shows that whiteboards are the most frequently used ICT tools in primary and secondary schools.

In primary schools, 86 per cent of teachers said they use display technologies in at least half of their lessons. The figure was 64 per cent for secondary schools.

In secondary schools 87 per cent of pupils said that whiteboards make it easier for the teacher to repeat and summarise. Some 85 per cent said that they thought lessons were better organised using whiteboards, and 81 per cent thought they made lessons more interesting.

In primary schools, young children who have yet to acquire writing skills, and older pupils with special needs, are keen to demonstrate their skills and knowledge by using the tapping and dragging facilities.

At Key Stage 2 maths, the average and higher attaining pupils of both sexes made greater progress with more exposure to whiteboards, measured against prior attainment in Key Stage 1 national tests.

At Key Stage 2 science, low-attaining boys had the biggest response. They made 7 and a half months' additional progress when they had two years of exposure to whiteboards compared to those who had none.

ICT Training is Essential

Steve Sinnott, NUT General Secretary, gives a report to Parliament:

The NUT General Secretary, Steve Sinnott, has given evidence to an all-party Parliamentary group for education on the need for proper training in technology for teachers.

As ICT is increasingly seen as an essential teaching tool Steve Sinnott argued that all teachers should be given a laptop and high quality continuing ICT training. This view is supported by evidence from OFSTED, which found that: "personal access for teachers to a computer for the purposes of preparation and planning is one of the strongest influences on the success of both ICT training and subsequent classroom use".

Steve warned that funding for exciting, useful new technologies such as interactive whiteboards would be squandered unless teachers were able to exploit their full potential.

Patently teachers need to be equipped with the skills to teach ICT effectively.



Piloting the Future

In response to the needs of its members, the NUT piloted an interactive whiteboard only course at South Camden City Learning Centre in the spring term of 2008.

The course was oversubscribed by over 100 percent.

The course is divided into two sections covering both Promethean and SMART Boards.

The NUT will continue to roll out this exciting new course in the upcoming terms as well as continuing to run the highly successful intermediate and multimedia level courses.

"Good to work with other teachers as they are supportive."

Zena James
Swansea WEA Centre

"Just, 'thank you' for making life a lot easier for me. I can now do things I previously thought were impossible."

Emmanuela Rabi
Lewisham College

IT Zombie No More



Sharing the learning experience

Patience Okoukoni, SEN Teacher, Crofton Secondary School, London

The ICT Skills for Teachers intermediate course I attending during the spring term of 2007 was 'wicked', in the words of my students. It is the most beneficial course I have been on.

As an SEN teacher, I have to produce quality differentiated materials, worksheets and learning resources at all times. The course has transformed me from an IT zombie to a competent professional. I couldn't be doing my work so well without this course. It is great to show off my latest worksheet. The feel good factor is phenomenal.

Before joining the course, most of my worksheets were done manually, and even if I had to use ICT, they were very rough and often incorrectly presented. I relied on colleagues most of the time, to do bits for me as I blamed my IT phobia on "lack of time", "virus on my PC" or some other ridiculous excuse. What a sad loser! Those days have been and gone and I am improving daily.

I owe this to the NUT and Lewisham College. Thank you both. When is the next course please?

The tutors were fantastic. They know how to let you explain problems gently, without hurting your feelings, or putting you off your work entirely. I am grateful and thankful to the organisers of this fabulous course, the tutors and fellow participants for all their support and encouragement.

I will definitely recommend this course to a thousand more teachers out there, who for some reason or other, are lacking in any area of ICT. Please take up the NUT offer. It is a thousand times better than the school ICT INSET days. The outcome is worth all the evenings.

Take my word for it, you won't regret it!

Give it a Go!

Pat Ward, Teacher, Woodthorne Primary School, Wolverhampton

"Please may I have a go next?" asked a familiar voice very close to my left ear. I looked around and, to my utter amazement, discovered it was MY voice speaking ... actually volunteering to try a new procedure on an interactive whiteboard, in front of a roomful of other teachers!

This was the stuff of a technophobe's nightmare ... yet no, I wasn't dreaming, and yes, I was quite happy about it and eager to take my turn. Could this really be the same person who some six weeks previously at the "meet and greet" session had introduced herself as the "special needs person"?

Such was the empowerment I felt on the multimedia course at Wolverhampton College, following a great deal of patient tutoring. And in the best tradition of a well-run classroom, friendly peer support and encouragement.

We all got quite carried along by our tutor's energising enthusiasm for computing and his passion for photography. Though we were all technologically differently-abled, each one of us could take away new ideas or a fresh slant on our expertise. It was such an interesting and varied course

Wolverhampton Winners

Simon Larson, Director of Higher Education and International Strategy, City of Wolverhampton College

During the spring term of 2007 twenty two teachers from a range of primary, junior and secondary schools in the Wolverhampton area embarked on the NUT's multimedia ICT Skills for Teachers programme at City of Wolverhampton College.

The course was hosted by the College in its new state-of-the-art Higher Education Social Learning Centre. The Centre was part-funded by the University of Wolverhampton and officially opened by the Vice Chancellor, Professor Caroline Gipps. It features twenty multimedia PC computers using the latest software. One of the computers is coupled to a SMART Board, complete with a high-end audio system.

The group of teachers were split into two evening programmes on a Tuesday and a Thursday which ran from January through to April in the spring term of 2007. The two tutors, provided by the West Midlands WEA, took the teachers through a range of multimedia software, including Publisher, Photoshop, PowerPoint and the interactive whiteboards. The teachers were given plenty of opportunities to produce their own PowerPoint presentations utilising still images, animated images, audio clips and video clips, as well as including text and graphic clipart objects. The College was able to offer several additional teaching rooms with interactive SMART Boards so that the teachers could practise their presentations.

During the course of the spring term I popped into the



A participant impresses the MP with her enthusiasm

that we were regretful when it finished, and left wishing that we'd had more time to explore the different possibilities presented to us.

Sometimes, even now, I surprise myself – and my colleagues and family – with what I know. I'm now happily inserting digital photographs into documents and have plans to use Publisher with my Year 1 class and I actually use the interactive whiteboard now!

So to any technophobe out there I say, "Give it a go! You may surprise yourself!"

Centre on several occasions to check that the course was progressing well. Each time I visited the groups, I was extremely impressed by the excitement and inspiration that the teachers were exuding. The level of interaction between each other and the two tutors gave off a real buzz in the Centre.

During the last week of the programme City of Wolverhampton MP, Rob Marris, visited the Thursday evening group and spent over an hour and a half talking individually to each of the school teachers undertaking the course. Chris Shelley was observed in action, facilitating the group, and he also chatted to Rob about the aims of the course and how ICT is such an important tool in education. Rob was clearly struck by the quality of the presentations that the participants had produced and was equally impressed with their enthusiasm and the way they had embraced the use of the multimedia software. Whilst chatting to Rob, the teachers described how they would utilise these newly gained skills within the delivery of their own curriculum areas and demonstrated incredible enthusiasm as to how the ICT resources would be used to enrich their pupils' learning. The teachers were also quick to pay tribute to the two course tutors – Chris and Saddique – and this was also commented on very positively by Rob.

I was delighted that City of Wolverhampton College was able to contribute to providing an environment that was conducive to helping develop ICT skills for a number of local school teachers and we plan to offer similar opportunities in the future.

"Excellent tutor who incorporated student problems within the course."

*Karen Jones
Norwich City College*

"Very well taught course."

*Mike Reed
Oriol High School, Crawley*

Hounslow Success

Stephen Rigby, Senior ICT Tutor, Hounslow Adult Education & Training

Hounslow Adult and Community Education have been involved in running the NUT ICT Skills for Teachers courses for the past three years and they have increased in popularity throughout that period. We have run these courses at two of our main centres on two consecutive evenings. This arrangement has the advantage of allowing learners to pick their most convenient venue and evening.

We started with the basic course and the following year delivered a CLAiT course – covering word processing, spreadsheets and internet and email – which proved extremely popular.

Our third series of courses has just ended with the intermediate course, linked to an Open College Network (OCN) qualification. Unlike the previous courses this involved the creation of a portfolio of work as opposed to assessments for each unit studied. This was much appreciated by the learners!

It was encouraging to see familiar faces from both the previous courses and, of course, enthusiastic 'newcomers'. The learners came with varying degrees of prior knowledge, ranging from the novices to those who just wanted to 'hone' their skills. We covered Internet and Email, Word processing – including Mail Merge! By far the most popular sessions were the presentation skills (PowerPoint).

In fact two of the learners then went on to create presentations for their schools.

We also touched on spreadsheets but time was running out and we did not cover as much of this as we had hoped. However, the excellent course books put together by the NUT, coupled with the handouts I supplied, will give the learners many hours of practice.

If you are considering undertaking one of the NUT ICT skills courses I think you will be pleasantly surprised. They are designed to appeal to everyone from someone who has never used a computer (and we had several of those in our first course) to accomplished PC users who just wanted to get one step ahead of their pupils.

A highlight of the course was a visit by Alan Keen, MP for Feltham & Heston and the local NUT representative, Marilyn Bater, Hounslow Division Secretary. This gave the learners the opportunity to discuss their progress on the course and also to ask questions and voice the concerns that affect most teachers. Alan spent about an hour with the class and was impressed that the NUT do so much to improve the ICT skills for teachers, having worked with computers before being elected to Parliament.

The feedback from the latest course has been very encouraging – with one learner saying it was becoming addictive. What more could you ask for - and no nasty side effects.

Without exception the learners all said they had enjoyed the experience. And, by the way, so did I.



Looking into their ICT future

"Thoroughly enjoyed the course – the NUT instruction booklet is excellent."

*Lesley Greasley
Salisbury College*

"It was a good opportunity to learn new ICT skills and gain more confidence. The tutor was experienced and professional."

*Stana Downie
South Camden City Learning Centre*

Contact Information

ICT Skills for Teachers Unit
The National Union of Teachers
Hamilton House
Mabledon Place
London WC1H 9BD

Tel: 020 7380 4822
Fax: 020 7383 5747
Email: ict.skills@nut.org.uk

With special thanks to:

Chris Brooksbank
Kendra Deacon
Andrea Elvey
Clare Huggonson
Mark Hughes
Simon Larson
Helen Millar
Patience Okoukoni
Stephen Rigby
Francis Roberts
Cis Short
Philip Smith
Pat Ward



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www.teachers.org.uk

NATIONAL UNION OF TEACHERS

professional development

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eLearning

You decide when, where and with whom you learn

Make the most of your coach or mentor (e/2)

Get what you want from coaching and mentoring. Unique to NUT members.

Too often, training and materials for mentoring and coaching focus exclusively on the skills of coaches and mentors themselves. Now the Centre for the Use of Research and Evidence has developed for the NUT an interactive multimedia distance learning resource. It enables teachers being coached or mentored to act confidently when they are discussing their teaching and learning with their coaches/mentors. This resource puts you in charge of your own learning and enhances your skills.

SMART THINKING!

The NUT CPD Programme is inviting 20 Primary and Secondary Schools to take part in a unique eCollaborative Professional Learning Project During 2008

'Developing Critical Thinking Skills' (All KSs)

Participating schools will get an excellent CD produced by 'Imaginative Minds' and Steve Williams. The CD package is designed to underpin 6 one-hour staff development sessions (in-school CPD for the whole staff or departments). The outcomes will enhance the teaching of critical thinking to pupils/students.

In return, each school will nominate a link teacher who will take part in a learning conversation on NUT's CPD bulletin-board CHATROOM. 'Thinkers' like John MacBeath and Viv Baumfield will join in too.

For full details visit:

www.teachers.org.uk/cpd or email nutcpd@nut.org.uk or ring 020 7380 4719



“Developing ICT Skills for Teachers”

The National Union of Teachers has provided the funding for these ICT skills training courses. They are available for all qualified teachers.

Course materials have been developed by
The College of North East London and Dunstable College.