



Department for Children and Young People

FAO Head teachers and strategic contacts for ICT

To head teachers of all Academies, Secondary,  
Special, Primary and Junior schools

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Dear Colleagues,

### Home Access ICT Initiative

On 11<sup>th</sup> January Gordon Brown launched the national rollout of the 'Home Access' £300 million government programme when he announced that free laptops with broadband internet are to be provided to more than a quarter of a million low-income households across the UK in a bid to boost exam results and job chances. He emphasised the intention to for all families to have broadband and that this would promote the ability for families to link to their children's schools to access progress reports on attainment, behaviour and other needs. As well as helping pupils with homework, trials of the programme proved invaluable to single parents with finding work and keeping in touch with friends.

As you aware we have been circulating information about Home Access Programme as it has emerged. The latest information is outlined below.

- The targeted marketing campaign to parents began on 13<sup>th</sup> January to coincide with the BETT show.
- Application forms will only be available by post following an initial screening call to the grant helpline to establish eligibility. Electronic copies cannot be circulated and bulk order copies will not be made available. The grant helpline is now available and can be reached on 0333 200 1004 (Monday to Friday 8am–8pm, Saturday 9am–1pm).
- The grant helpline offers options on applications and eligibility, help completing the application form, application status, grant card queries and general queries, which includes information about assistive technology, Looked After Children, hardware and software.
- It is important that Home Access is targeted at eligible families to limit unsuccessful applications and avoid disappointment. **We have been asked to inform schools that they need to target any information to the appropriate parents.** For a parent / guardian to apply, they must be responsible for and living with a child who:
  - is in school years 3 to 9 (normally aged 7–14)
  - has never had a computer from Computers For Pupils or the Home Access programme
  - is eligible for Free School Meals, and
  - is named on a Child Benefit award letter.

Cont'd.....

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

- The Home Access website is now live and can be found at <http://www.homeaccess.org.uk/>. Please register for this as it is where you can access and download posters, leaflets and other marketing materials. It will take between 3-7 days to confirm your registration.
- The number of approved Home Access suppliers is increasing and a second group will be approved shortly.

For those colleagues wishing to promote this initiative with parents I have attached some documents which will support your communications.

The first is a sample letter to schools which you can use. You will wish to personalise this letter with your school details but we have been asked to inform you that you should not change the core content in any way.

I have also attached a leaflet for parents which details the eligibility criteria and information about the helpline so that eligible families can contact the helpline.

We hope you find this information useful.

Yours sincerely



Jo Briscoe  
**ICT Strategy Manager**