



Briefing Sheet

Date: 4 October 2002
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RE: 'Learning Through Innovation' Proposed Project

The purpose of this briefing is to inform colleagues about some recent and very exciting advances regarding the future development of learning and ICT within South Gloucestershire.

Many colleagues are already aware of the visit made by Gordon Dryden, the author of 'The Learning Revolution' to South Gloucestershire when he led a training session at the headteachers' conference in October 2001. Gordon gave a motivating and innovative presentation on the use of ICT to support learning styles and how ICT skills can be developed and used to access the curriculum. The session focused around applying accelerated learning techniques to the development of ICT capability and the application of this within the classroom.

Head teacher colleagues who attended found the conference extremely exciting and were very much enthused by Gordon's innovative approach. There have been a number of requests to colleagues in the LEA about the need to follow up this work.

In addition a large number of colleagues also attended a day course on the Primary Assessment for Learning Project delivered by members of Cornwall LEA. Many colleagues again demonstrated a keen interest in following this up and the team have looked at how this could be linked with this project.

This has resulted in the formation of a planning team consisting of Barbara Teale, Sue Morgan and Jo Briscoombe to discuss and consider how Gordon's work could be developed across South Gloucestershire.

The planning team invited Gordon for a further meeting to discuss how a pilot project could be developed to train a cohort of South Gloucestershire schools. Following on from this the team worked on a proposal for a pilot project to be carried out within the LEA.

The team invited Doug Brown, Divisional Manager, ICT in Schools Division of the DfES to South Gloucestershire to discuss the project proposal and the possibility of the DfES contributing funding to enable the project to be implemented. Doug and his colleague, Kevin Rennie, expressed a keen interest in the project and asked a number of critical questions about implementation, funding and the likely commitment from schools wishing to

participate. They were obviously unable to commit to any funding decision during the meeting but have indicated that a response will be forthcoming by the end of October. They were also very keen to discuss the proposal with their colleagues in the Standards and Effectiveness Unit. Our proposal was very timely in that it happened at the same time that the DfES are wanting to further investigate how ICT can contribute to raising standards across the curriculum.

The project proposal identified a vision to unite learning with the creative use of ICT and use Assessment for Learning to measure the impact. A number of key aspects were also identified:

- Raising standards across the curriculum
- Developing schools in which all practice is the best practice
- Broadening the range of teaching and learning strategies
- Raising expectations for achievement in ICT

The pilot project proposed to Doug involved a cohort of 14 schools in:

- Five day intensive training for at least 3 members of staff
- Dissemination of training within the pilot schools
- Training involving some input on teaching and learning styles from nationally renowned trainers
- Training, delivered by local and regional trainers, on how to incorporate the progressive development of ICT skills to develop materials to use directly in the classroom
- Development of a creative approach to learning through a wide variety of techniques including animation, video editing and mind mapping
- Schools working with partner schools to further disseminate information from the project

We know from the response to the conferences that head teachers are very keen to develop the linking of the use of accelerated learning techniques with ICT and hope that many will be keen to participate in a proposed pilot project.

We would like to invite colleagues to attend a twilight meeting to consult over the proposal that has been suggested to the DfES. The purposes of the meeting would be to:

- Inform colleagues about the project proposal as it was presented to Doug Brown
- Discuss the level of commitment that schools would be prepared to offer to such a project
- Give further information about the response of the DfES
- Enable colleagues to register an interest in participating in any resulting pilot project (this would be subject to funding provision from the DfES and to the school meeting selection criteria)

The type of project being proposed would provide an excellent follow up to the conferences already mentioned and to the training teachers have been receiving through NOF. It would also put the use of ICT to support teaching and learning at the heart of education within

South Gloucestershire. The use of broadband would enable sharing and follow up work across the authority to raise standards and to improve learning. Working in partnership with the DfES would enable the authority to be involved in an innovative project to the benefit of all South Gloucestershire schools.

Please complete and return the slip below.



'Learning through Innovation' project

School _____

Contact person _____

I would like to attend the briefing on Wednesday 16 October at Thornbury Council Offices, in the Council Chamber from 4.30 to 6.00pm.

Refreshments will be available at 4.30pm for a 5.00 pm start.

Signed _____

<p>Please return to Gill Stone, Advisory & Professional/Curriculum Development Service by post or Fax 01454 868651 by Friday 11 October 2002</p>
