

Department for Children and Young People

For the attention of the Headteacher, the CPD co-ordinator and ICT Subject Leader

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> October 2008  
 Your Ref:  
 Our Ref: JB/MR  
 DI Ref: B300-2-405-08  
 Path: I:\PRIMARY\ICT\COMMS\TEXT\TEASE\TEXT\TEASE TRAINING SEPT 08.DOC  
 Enquiries to: Jo Briscoombe  
 Tel: 01454 863184  
 Fax: 01454 868967  
 E-mail: jo.briscombe@southglos.gov.uk

Dear Headteacher

**This letter is to advise you about FREE twilight training sessions for Textease CT and Honeycomb being offered by Softease and school requests for purchase of Textease.**

Included in the purchase of Textease CT we arranged for Softease to lead some training sessions to allow you to become familiar with the potential of the software.

We have therefore arranged the following locality based training opportunities:

Locality	School	Dates
1	St Michaels Stoke Gifford	21 <sup>st</sup> October 2008
2	Pucklechurch	27 <sup>th</sup> November 2008
3	Bromley Heath Juniors	<b>11<sup>th</sup> November 2008</b>

There will be a maximum number allowed at each session in order for each person attending to have sole use of a PC for the training to be most effective.

I have also received requests from several schools who wish to purchase Textease Publisher CT for their school and have asked that I place an order on their behalf. This is a publishing program which addresses the requirements of the literacy framework. If you are still using the BlackCat toolkit then this does not fully address these requirements. If you would like me to place an order on your behalf at the discounted price then please return a school order form. The price for a site licence is £749.25, however if you already have some licenses for Textease please contact me as there may be a cheaper upgrade path. Included with Textease are a large number of lesson templates supporting the renewed frameworks. Textease is also part of a suite of 9 programmes called Studio CT which includes, Publisher, Draw, Spreadsheet, Movies, Database, Paint, Presenter, Turtle and Branch. If you are interested in replacing your whole toolkit with this the prices for this are linked to the size of schools and are listed at the end of this letter. Again there may be an upgrade price so please contact if you already have licences. There will be a small administration charge for handling these purchases. For schools with under 100 pupils the offer at the moment means that it is cheaper to buy the whole toolkit. Schools have a small amount of funding under Harnessing Technology which can be used for software purchases. I have included a flier about this in the school mailing for your information.

Cont'd .....

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 South Gloucestershire BS37 6JX Tel: (01454) 868008 Fax: (01454) 863263

## Honeycomb Pilot

Softase have also offered South Gloucestershire a 6 month pilot project using Honeycomb. This online package enables users to create web pages, blogs and wikis easily and to collaborate online and comment on each others work within an intuitive, safe and educational environment. The product has previously been demonstrated at Best Practice Forum where some colleagues showed an interest in using it. If you would like further information I am including a flier in the school post and you can also access further information at the web site at <http://www.honeycombtools.com/>.

We have arranged for the opportunity for 6 to 10 schools to participate in the pilot project using Honeycomb. The pilot will include half a day of initial training, one follow up meeting and one review meeting. The initial training will take place as follows:

## Honeycomb Training

22<sup>nd</sup> October 2008                      Bromley Heath Junior School                      1.15 – 4-15 p.m.

If you wish to take advantage of any of the training, or be involved in the Honeycomb project, would you please complete the attached slip and return it to Vicky Bailey/Marsha Reeves by **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October**. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Should there be too many applicants for a session we will limit the allocation per school to 2 or 3 places at each session with the expectation that these delegates would then disseminate the training within their own school.

Yours sincerely



Jo Briscoe  
ICT Strategy Adviser

Prices for Textease Studio CT which includes all nine titles

School Size	Site Licence – full price	Special Price for new customers	Special Price if you already have Textease CT
0-99	959	719.25	623.35
100-199	2149	1611.75	1396.85
200+	3449	2586.75	2241.85

**TEXTEASE AND HONEYCOMB RESPONSE FORM**

**SCHOOL** .....

**Textease Training Locality 1 – St Michael’s School Stoke Gifford – 21<sup>st</sup> October 2008**

I would like the following teachers to attend the locality 1 training session.

Delegate Names.....

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**Textease Training Locality 2 – Pucklechurch Primary School – 27<sup>th</sup> November 2008**

I would like the following teachers to attend the locality 2 training session.

Delegate Names.....

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**Textease Locality 3 - Bromley Heath Junior School – 11<sup>th</sup> November 2008**

I would like the following teachers to attend the locality 3 training session.

Delegate Names.....

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**Honeycomb Project and Training – 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2008**

I would like my school to be considered for involvement in the Honeycomb project and would like the following teachers to attend the training session on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2008 at Bromley Heath Juniors.

Delegate Names.....

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Signed.....(Headteacher)

Date.....

**Please return for the attention of Jo Briscoombe by Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October to fax 01454 868967.**