



Department for Children and Young People

For the attention of Head Teachers of all schools
and the PRU with e-mailed copy to Secondary ICT
Strategic Managers

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Enquiries to: Jo Briscoombe
Tel: 01454 863184
Fax: 01454 868967
E-mail: jo.briscombe@southglos.gov.uk

Dear Colleague

Regional ICT Conference Wednesday 1st July 2009 at UWE Bristol - A one-day regional ICT conference for all teaching staff, ICT subject leaders, headteachers and school governors

This is the eleventh regional ICT Conference, which has been jointly organised and run by representatives of local authorities across the South West Grid for Learning in collaboration with the University of the West of England. The evaluations of last year's event were extremely positive and the conference has been oversubscribed for a number of years which are indications of the success of this important regional event.

The first regional conference will be held on Wednesday 1st July 2009 at the University of the West of England's Frenchay campus, on the outskirts of Bristol. This venue offers easy access from the M5, M4, and a rail link to nearby Bristol Parkway. The venue allows for a capacity of 500 delegates from schools in the region. This will be followed by a second conference being held this year on Thursday 2nd July at the Riviera Centre in Torquay, which will have similar seminars as Bristol but with local input from schools and local authorities in the south of the SWGfL region. You are more than welcome to attend that event if you are unable to join us in Bristol on 1st July.

The conferences are recognised nationally as key annual ICT events, and have attracted nationally renowned key speakers. In addition, a wide-ranging programme of exciting seminars has been organised, with coverage of all key stages. The event will include the usual large exhibition by suppliers. We are delighted to inform you that this year's final keynote speech will include contributions by young people from the region. Another change to the programme which also highlights the contribution of our young people is that the 'School Resource Display' has been replaced by a 'Schools in Action' event. Schools from each local authority will be attending with pupils to demonstrate some of their exciting learning.

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Therese Gillespie, Director for Children and Young People, South Gloucestershire Council, Bowling Hill, Chipping Sodbury, South Gloucestershire BS37 6JX Tel: (01454) 868008 Fax: (01454) 863263



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

This event is an ideal opportunity for colleagues to update themselves on current ICT issues, to view good practice and gain ideas to take back to school. It also provides key information to inform a vision about ICT in schools and to feed in to strategic planning. The exhibition offers an opportunity to talk to suppliers about their products and make informed decisions about spending funding. Once again, there will be the popular prize draw.

At a cost of **£70** per delegate, which includes lunch, the conference remains excellent value for money and I would commend it to your attention.

Please find enclosed copies of the official conference programme for the above event, containing details of all the workshops and seminars that are available on the day. It would be appreciated if you could bring this information to the attention of teaching and support staff within your school and members of the governing body, in particular those with a strategic responsibility for ICT in the curriculum.

Booking your place:

- **Online booking will be available from 30th April 2009.** To book a place please log-on to: <http://www.swgfl.org.uk/ictconferences/booking> and complete the online booking form for the West of England ICT Conference on Wednesday 1st July 2009 at the University of the West of England, Bristol.
- Further details including a programme with agenda for the day and map to the event are available on the website.

As there is a limit to the number of delegates that can be catered for, you are advised to book early to avoid disappointment. **The conference has been oversubscribed for the last three years and early booking will prevent you missing out.**

I trust that you find the programme information helpful and that a representative from your school will be able to attend this major regional event.

Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Yours sincerely



Jo Briscoe
ICT Strategy Manager

Enc: Regional ICT Conference Programmes