



Department for Children and Young People

Headteachers in all relevant Primary, Infant,  
Junior and Special Schools

Date: 9 March 2009  
Your Ref:  
Our Ref: JB/MR  
DI Ref: B300 2 098 09  
Path: I:\PRIMARY\ICT\COMMS\2008-09\TEXTEASE LETTER MARCH 09.DOC  
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Dear Colleague

**The purpose of this letter is to respond to a school request for providing a discounted offer for a Primary site licence for Textease CT and other Lightbox Education Software.**

As you know we have been recommending that schools update their core toolbox of software, particularly their Word Processor if they are still using Write Away, as this is very out of date. It will not provide children with the word processing, desktop publishing and multimedia experiences that are part of today's expectation for developing ICT capability and the ICT elements of the renewed framework for literacy. In the recent Ofsted report Ofsted have identified that for learners, an 'over-reliance on a standard 'office' application and operating system restricted their opportunities to develop generic and transferable skills'. In a presentation about this report David Anstead, Ofsted's National Adviser for ICT, elaborated by saying that younger learners need to be using age appropriate software that provides them with support for developing their writing skills.

As you know one of the programs that will offer the capability suggested is Textease CT from Lightbox Education (<http://www.softease.com/textease/>). In response to requests from schools we have already worked with Lightbox Education several times to offer this at a discounted price. Some schools were not in a position to purchase at that time and have since requested provide this again. Consequently we have negotiated a discount of **20%** on the normal Primary Site licence price and the cost of this is on the attached sheet. This cost relates to individual schools and if a large number of schools opt in the company may be able to offer further discounts. In order to benefit from this offer you will need to submit a school order form by **March 27<sup>th</sup> 2009**.

Another advantage of selecting Textease CT is that Softease have already matched activities by year group for the renewed frameworks for literacy and numeracy. Once you have Textease CT installed all these activities will be available for downloading through the link <http://www.softease.com/Resources.aspx>.

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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

Softease do produce a fully integrated set of nine software tools called Textease Studio CT which can also be purchased at a discounted rate as attached. For information on the range of tools please visit the web site below

<http://www.softease.com/Product.aspx?cref=SEPRD1000757&rid=1&cid=1>

The attached sheet also includes details on purchasing home access licences for Textease CT for use by pupils to support their learning at home. This is a one off payment and the company have informed us that some schools offset the cost of this by making a small charge to parents who might want to take advantage of this for their children.

If you would like to go ahead with the purchase of Textease CT or additional titles as attached please complete the slip below and return it by **27<sup>th</sup> March 2009**.

If you have any queries then please don't hesitate to get in touch with me by email [jo.briscombe@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:jo.briscombe@southglos.gov.uk) or by telephone 01454 863184.

With best wishes,

*J. Briscombe*

**Jo Briscombe**  
cc ICT subject leader



I confirm that I would like to purchase Textease CT or additional titles

Signed .....

Date .....

For queries please contact: Jo Briscomb on Tel: 01454 863184 or e-mail: [jo.briscomb@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:jo.briscomb@southglos.gov.uk)