



## **NORTH EAST SCHOOLS RAISE THE STANDARD WITH INNOVATIVE ICT**

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2006 at 10am Northern Grid for Learning will announce the winners of this year's prestigious Northern Grid ICT in Education Awards. Entries have been received from across the region, with teachers and pupils in the North East demonstrating the innovative ways in which they have been using ICT to enhance learning.

The North East has consistently led the way in embracing technology's ability to drive schools forward. With full broadband connectivity achieved two years ahead of government targets, schools in the North East have been able to use multimedia resources in many exciting ways, engaging pupils and delivering real benefits to their education.

The schools shortlisted for the ICT in Education Awards have demonstrated a range of achievements and include Primary and Secondary schools in Stockton who are using an innovative "virtual classroom" to introduce language lessons for younger children; a Newcastle school using ICT enabled music for children with special educational needs; and a Darlington school that has embraced ICT as a tool for whole school improvement.

Mick Young, Project Development, Northern Grid for Learning, explains; "Having been involved in NetShow and the Northern Grid ICT in Education Awards for several years I have definitely seen a dramatic improvement in the quality and standards of schools' use of ICT. The Awards celebrate this work and promote the excellence of schools in the North East. It has been particularly satisfying to see the number of schools in our region who were able to secure funding, through our scheme, to develop school based ICT projects of their own. Many of these will be on show during NetShow06."

Manager of Northern Grid for Learning, Mel Philipson continues; "Schools within the Northern Grid partnership are now all able to take advantage of broadband connections and broadband technologies. It is significant that schools in the North East received broadband two years ahead of Government targets.



Broadband is a key tool in promoting exciting and creative use of ICT to help raise standards and promote school improvement. It allows many users to access high quality, interactive and multimedia software packages. NetShow is a great time to reflect on how far schools in region have already come, while also giving teachers the chance to get advice and ideas which they can take back to their own classroom." Mel Philipson, Manager, Northern Grid for Learning.

This is the fourth NetShow and the event is now firmly established as the largest educational event in the North East. The event takes place at Newcastle Racecourse on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> February 2006.

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**ICT in Education Awards Categories include:**

- School Websites (primary and secondary)
- Animated Presentations (primary and secondary)
- Online Anthologies (primary and secondary)
- ICT and Early Years (teacher award)
- Computer Graphics and Art (primary, secondary and under 7s)
- ICT and Music (teacher award)
- Interactive Story (primary and secondary)
- Innovative use of ICT to support inclusion (teacher award)
- Promotion of the North East region using ICT (primary and secondary)
- Use of Video Conferencing

**About Northern Grid for Learning:**

Northern Grid for Learning is the Regional Broadband Consortium for the North East. Northern Grid supports schools and local authorities to achieve national targets for ICT and promote high standards in schools.

The company works with its local authority partners and undertakes those responsibilities which they feel are more effectively delivered by regional collaboration. It aims to complement and supplement partner LA developments in ICT. Additionally it engages in a range of activities which provide best value, promote best practice and establish the region as a national centre of excellence.



For further information visit Northern Grid's portal at [www.northerngrid.org](http://www.northerngrid.org)

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