

## **NORTHERN GRID FOR LEARNING**

### **LEADING THE WAY IN EDUCATION**

Northern Grid for Learning's vision is to support schools and local authorities to achieve the highest possible standards by embracing the opportunities which technology can provide for 21<sup>st</sup> century education.

By collaborating regionally with schools, education bodies and the commercial sector, as well as collaborating nationally with the other nine Regional Broadband Consortia and the wider education sector, Northern Grid undertakes activities that provide best value, promote best practice and establish the region as a national centre of excellence.

Northern Grid, formed in 2000 as a direct result of the Government's five year strategy to introduce broadband connectivity to schools, has been highly successful in establishing a robust, reliable regional network. All schools within Northern Grid's partner local authorities were connected two years ahead of schedule and 2006 will see the network upgraded, with the majority of secondary schools receiving 100Mgb services.

The current focus is on supporting the transformation of learning through ICT by providing technologies and resources that will allow greater personalisation of students' learning experiences, give teachers tools that can enhance their teaching and support leaders in their drive for whole school improvement. Northern Grid's activities and services range from dedicated hands-on training, school leader briefing sessions, ICT awards for the region's most innovative schools, working with teachers to develop freely available content and negotiating with commercial partners to offer schools discounted resources.

In 2006 the national interconnect will be further developed, giving schools access to a growing online educational community and videoconferencing facilities will be further enhanced across the network. Northern Grid will continue to encourage schools to get best value and greatest impact from broadband enabled teaching and learning.