



## **NEWCASTLE SCHOOLS SCOOP NORTHERN GRID ICT IN EDUCATION AWARDS**

Newcastle, Gateshead and North Tyneside schools have scooped several awards in the prestigious Northern Grid for Learning's ICT in Education Awards 2006. The winners were announced at the North East's leading educational event, NetShow06, on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February.

Moorside School, Sir Charles Parsons, Glynwood Primary, St Bernadettes and Woodlawn Special School all received top prizes celebrating their innovative use of ICT. Mel Philipson, Manager of Northern Grid for Learning, comments; "All the winning schools demonstrated an understanding of how ICT can enhance the learning experience by giving teachers new ways of engaging their pupils. Their enthusiastic and creative approach to absorbing ICT into school life is impressive and reinforces the excellence of schools in our region."

'Three Geordie Songs' is one winning project, from Sir Charles Parsons, which integrates music and ICT to support inclusion for children with special educational needs and Glynwood also secured an ICT and Music award for the high levels of skill its Year 5 pupils showed in using music to enhance moving images. Moorside's interactive story 'The Story of the Chocolate Bully' impressed the judges with its creativity and technical ability. While Woodlawn Special School picked up two awards for their Online Anthologies as well as their art project 'Lego Rules OK?' and St Bernadettes' 'Frosty the Snowman' computer graphics and art project secured the award for the Under 7s category.

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."



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 to engage pupils and deliver real benefits to their education.

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, and the ICT in Education Awards, offer an ideal time to reflect on how far schools in region have already come."

The full list of schools recognised by Northern Grid for excellence in ICT includes:

**Longfield Comprehensive, Darlington** – *Overall Excellence in ICT*

**Caedmon Primary, Redcar & Cleveland** – *Overall Excellence in ICT*

**Moorside School, Newcastle** – *School Websites and Interactive Story*

**Redcar & Cleveland CLC** - *Animated Presentations*

**Woodlawn Special School, North Tyneside** - *Online Anthologies and Computer Graphics and Art (primary)*

**Skelton Primary School, Redcar & Cleveland** - *ICT and Early Years (teacher award)*

**Sir Charles Parsons, Newcastle** - *Computer Graphics and Art (secondary) and ICT and Music (teacher award, secondary)*

**St Bernadette's, North Tyneside** - *Computer Graphics and Art (under 7s)*

**Glynwood Primary, Heyworth Grange CLC, Gateshead** – *ICT and Music (primary)*

**Middlesbrough CLC** – *Interactive Story (secondary)*

**Polam Hall School, Stockton** – *Animated Presentations (primary)*

**Conyers Primary, Stockton** - *Innovative use of ICT to support inclusion*

**Caedmon Primary, Redcar & Cleveland** - *Promotion of the North East region using ICT*



NetShow06 was the fourth annual event and NetShow is now firmly established as the largest educational event in the North East. The event took place at Newcastle Racecourse on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> February 2006.

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**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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