

January 2008

## **No More Excuses, Says e-Learning Foundation**

**Society Can No-Longer Justify The Disadvantaged Children In Our Communities  
Being Without Access To A Computer**

*Yet Grants Are No Longer A Certainty!*

*Visit stand M40 at BETT 2008 and Find Out More!*

BETT 2008 - Thanks to the realisation of the of the One Laptop Per Child Foundation, set up by Nicholas Negroponte, and the launch this autumn by RM of the Asus Eee PC, a £169 mini laptop weighing less than 1 kg, the e-Learning Foundation is predicting the arrival of a number of low cost computers in 2008 that will make the aims of the UK charity achievable, even in the most challenging communities.

Schools looking to equip every child with their own computer device, but lacking the funding establish such a project, have often struggled to persuade parents on low incomes to make sufficient contributions to sustain the programme long term. As a result, many schools in the UK have been dependent on grants, through organisations such as the e-Learning Foundation, and have often required 'top ups' to keep e-learning projects alive. In the current climate, however, grant funding is difficult to predict and there will never be enough funds to go around.

The advent of the sub-£200 computer however will dramatically change this picture. Through a very modest donation from parents (which could be as little as £5 per month) and a small 'top up' by schools from their capital budget, every child could be provided with a computer for their studies both in the classroom and at home.

Drawing on its experience gained with over 230 schools in the UK already engaged with parents for the provision of 'access for all' ICT, the e-Learning Foundation can help with advice on setting up a sustainable e-learning project and putting in place a parental contribution scheme. Many schools are worried about the administrative burden of such schemes. The e-Learning Foundation can help with the administration of collecting regular parental donations through its tried and trusted Donation Management Service (DMS).

Please come and talk to our team at BETT 2008 (stand no M40) who will be happy to explain how you can achieve your home access vision. Your pupils can enjoy personal access to IT – without a grant application form in sight!

# pressrelease



## **Editor's Notes:**

About the e-Learning Foundation:

The e-Learning Foundation was launched in 2001, to ensure that every schoolchild in the UK should have home access to learning technologies when and where they want to learn.

The Foundation, a registered charity, aims to bridge the digital divide and ensure that all children, irrespective of their background, can have the same access to technology for learning at home as their better off peers. The estimated cost of this is over £1 billion, so unlikely to be provided by Government alone.

The Foundation is funded through the public, private and third sector in the form of Government grants, commercial sponsorship, grants and donations.

For media enquiries contact: Jan Howells on 01932 796036 or e-mail [jan@e-learningfoundation.com](mailto:jan@e-learningfoundation.com) or mobile 0771 388 3773.