

Minister Hands Over Cheque To Lambeth School For IT Home Access On Behalf Of e-Learning Foundation Charity

Lilian Baylis Technology College receives £10,000 grant for e-learning project

21 July 2008 - The e-Learning Foundation welcomed Jim Knight MP, Minister for Schools and Learners, to Lilian Baylis Technology College in Kennington, South London to hand over a grant cheque for £10,000 and meet some of the children involved in its home access e-learning project.

The e-Learning Foundation, a national charity, has chosen to support Lilian Baylis Technology College's e-learning project. All projects chosen by the Foundation for grant support have to share the common principles of equity of access, home access and sustainability of funding through parental involvement.

"We are delighted that Jim Knight MP, Minister for Schools and Learners could visit the Lilian Baylis Technology College project and see for himself how home access can enhance children's studies and help provide life changing opportunities," commented Valerie Thompson, Chief Executive of the e-Learning Foundation.

The e-Learning Foundation has worked hand-in-hand with its local affiliate, the Lambeth e-Learning Foundation, which looks to ensure that young people in Lambeth have the right technology for their studies. Chris Davies, CEO, said "The Lambeth Foundation is delighted to be working with families at Lilian Baylis, who contribute half of the cost, to make sure all have the technology they need for learning and that it is used well."

"This project has bridged the digital divide for our parents. It has created an affordable solution for our families so they can have a computer with broadband access at home. Students can complete their homework, enhance their GCSE coursework and take advantage of the huge number of on line learning and support websites. Families are, as Jim Knight heard, using it to look for jobs, develop their ICT skills to get a better job and to stay in touch with family and friends," explained Gary Phillips, headmaster at Lilian Baylis Technology College.

pressrelease



So far, the e-Learning Foundation has helped fund e-learning projects in over 300 schools nationwide, providing learning technologies for over 50,000 school children to tap into at home and in school for their studies.

While schools are better equipped with technology than ever before, the variation in the quality of learning that takes place in the home is enormous. As children only spend 15% of their lives at school, home access to technology is extremely important in their future success.

Good access to ICT (Information and Communications Technology) at home has been proven to significantly influence educational outcomes. Yet low income and single parent families are still far less likely to own a home computer than high income families. At the same time, whilst there is a growing preference for portable technologies within schools, fewer than 20% of schools loan computers for home use.

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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 runs into £billions, 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.

About the Lambeth e-Learning Foundation

Lambeth e-Learning Foundation (LeLF) is a registered charity that is affiliated to the national e-Learning Foundation. LeLF works with the national Foundation to ensure that every schoolchild in its area has access to technology at home and school to succeed in education.
<http://www.lelf.org.uk>

About Lilian Baylis Technology College

Lilian Baylis Technology College specialises in technology and has achieved National Healthy School Status and Artsmark: Gold. It serves a challenging neighbourhood, and 80% of its students are entitled to free school meals. In its very recent Ofsted report, Lilian Baylis Technology College was judged a good school with outstanding features.
www.lilianbaylis.com

PR Contact: Jan Howells at the e-Learning Foundation on 01932 796036 or e-mail jan@e-learningfoundation.co.uk