

Immediate Release:

Are You Prepared For Home Access Yet?

e-Learning Foundation's Conference Explains All – Now Open For Registration

19 March 2009: Home access is key to the Government's agenda for education in a bid to close the digital divide - but are you prepared for the Programme it plans to roll out this autumn? The e-Learning Foundation's Home Access May 2009 Conference will provide delegates with the knowledge and networking opportunities to move forward from a panel of experts, bedded down school projects and best-in-class practitioners.

The £300 million Home Access Programme announced by the Prime Minister in September 2008 aims to help over half a million families gain access to a computer and the internet at home. Yet many schools still do not feel in touch with how it will work and how they can support families. The e-Learning Foundation Home Access May 2009 Conference has been designed to provide the answers.

The one day interactive conference will be held on Thursday 21 May 2009 at The Carriageworks Theatre, Leeds. The morning keynote speaker for the event will be Niel McLean, Executive Director of Becta who will present on "the National Policy for Home Access". This will be followed by a presentation by Valerie Thompson, Chief Executive of the e-Learning Foundation on "Why Home Access **must** be Universal".

The conference will look at how schools can built effective relationships with parents and how they can work together to set up sustainable e-learning projects. Chris Yapp, executive technology strategy consultant at Capgemini UK will look at future technologies that are around the corner. In addition there will be break out sessions on an introduction to the e-Learning Foundation, for those who are not familiar with the charity and its work, a round table where leading practitioners will share their experiences of setting up successful projects, and there will be a session from one of the Suffolk schools in the Home Access pilot who have been aggregating the Home Access grants through a high level of engagement from parents. There will also be an update for school bursars and business managers on the e-Learning Foundations Donation Management System (DMS) service and its associated web portal. There will also be plenty of time for questions and networking during the day.

“I am delighted that after all our lobbying efforts as a charity the Government has seen the importance of introducing a Home Access Programme to address the digital divide in this country,” commented Valerie Thompson, Chief Executive of the e-Learning Foundation. “The key to its success now is getting the message out. The programme will help up to one million families who do not have a computer at home and enable parents to take a more active role in their children’s studies. This conference has been designed to provide all the answers to your questions and more to ensure you hit the track running when it rolls out in the autumn”.

The e-Learning Foundation’s Home Access May 2009 Conference has a delegate fee of £85 for e-Learning Foundation affiliated schools, a (non-affiliated) school rate of £99 and an industry and corporate delegate rate of £150. Early bird booking discounts are available to those who book before 31 March 2009. Prices are exclusive of VAT. Standard rates are applicable to commercial companies and all other organisations including charities and local authorities. To find out more details about the conference and to book a place please go to:

<http://www.e-lf.co.uk/spring-09/>

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Editor’s notes:

e-Learning Foundation Affiliated School Scheme:

For schools to benefit from the full range of services from the e-Learning Foundation they must be affiliated. Affiliation is conditional on a school demonstrating compliance with the charity’s core values – home access, equity of access regardless of means, sustainable funding through parental contributions and sharing knowledge. Affiliation is £100 for Primary Schools and £200 for Secondary Schools. Benefits include the right to apply for grants, help with fundraising, access to a dedicated public relations team, discounts on software packages, use of the Donation Management Service which collects regular parental donations on behalf of the school and free advice and support from a team of dedicated School Liaison Managers.

About the e-Learning Foundation

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

www.e-learningfoundation.com

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