

## ELECTRONIC WHITEBOARD TRAINING RESOURCES GAP ADDRESSED WITH LAUNCH OF INTERACTIVE CD

**24 March 2004** - An interactive training resource that showcases effective ways in which teachers can use electronic whiteboards was launched today by the North Islington Education Action Zone (NIEAZ) and The IT Learning Exchange (TITLE). The CD-Rom contains a series of training videos, teaching resources, lesson plans and example lessons that can be freely used by teachers when planning their own lessons.

Schools in the NIEAZ have really benefited from the training provided that focuses on effective teaching and learning. The results of schools has been impressive and three of them that have whiteboards in every classroom are in the top 5% value-added nationally.

“There is always a high level of enthusiasm for whiteboards among the teachers we meet on our courses. They are aware that training will maximize their effectiveness as teachers”, says Gaynor Cashin, Director of the NIEAZ. “We launched this CD-Rom to provide teachers with a hands-on guide that would quickly provide them with examples and lesson plans to get started with whiteboards in their classes.”

The Government’s recent decision to invest £50m in electronic whiteboards in London schools highlights the importance of whiteboards to current teaching practices; however, without effective training resources, there is a danger that electronic whiteboards will not be used to their full potential. Although many schools are already making excellent use of whiteboards, significant numbers of schools remain where whiteboards are largely untouched and stand unused in the corner of a classroom.

The CD-Rom contains seven short films of teachers using whiteboards in the class, filmed in a range of schools within the North Islington area, and demonstrate very clearly the positive effect that whiteboards can have in the classroom. There is also a short film that explores in a series of frank interviews the attitudes of teachers involved in this project to whiteboards.

“Whiteboards can be a potent teaching tool for any teacher, if they are taught how best to use them”, says Steve Oram, Director of The IT Learning Exchange, a division of the London Metropolitan University. “Teachers have to grab the attention of children, offering a level of interactivity and excitement to rival that of DVDs, the internet and computer games. Whiteboards enable them to be interactive and exciting, and this CD-Rom is a fantastic resource that will give teachers a much-needed confidence boost in the classroom.”

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The interactive CD and each of the training films were created by Hoxton Productions, a multimedia agency that specialises in the education sector. "From the reaction of children in the classrooms, it was clear that whiteboards are an incredible resource that should be a part of every teacher's arsenal," says Ben Richardson, Managing Director of Hoxton Productions. "I only wish that we had had whiteboards when I was learning at school."

The CD-Rom is available from either the North Islington Education Action Zone or The IT Learning Exchange[, and costs £20, which can be bought through the government's E-Learning Credits portal].

**ENDS**

**For further information, contact:**

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**About North Islington Education Action Zone**

North Islington Education Action Zone consists of 20 schools in the North Islington area. Lead partners in the NIEAZ include The Fischer Family Trust, CEA@Islington, the LEA and RM. Its mission is to widen the horizons of pupils and all those working in the zone.

All involved with the zone are committed to improving education outcomes for all pupils, through the process of continuous improvement with an emphasis on the quality of teaching and learning. This involves a commitment to accelerating school improvement through: collaborative working between schools and with parents and the wider community; developing 'Thinking Schools' that emphasise self-review and continuous professional development; identifying, developing and promoting excellent practice; appropriate innovation and use of technology; and embedding projects that are sustainable.

**About The IT Learning Exchange**

The IT Learning Exchange (part of the London Metropolitan University) is a well-established ICT support centre with a very broad range of expertise which has been gained by providing support to teachers in a wide variety of ways. This level of support is continually developed to reflect the changes in the technology, pedagogic policy or funding policy of educational ICT.

Many excellent ICT classroom resources are not fully utilised, due to the lack of available time and expertise of the average class teacher, but as an organisation, we are able to provide a service that can address that difficulty. We are in an ideal position to bridge the gap between educational resource suppliers and classroom practitioners.

**About Hoxton Productions Ltd**

Hoxton Productions Ltd is a multimedia communications agency that provides organisations within the

education sector with training films and interactive CD-Roms. They can be found at  
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