



i-SCHOOLS News Winter 2012

i-Schools Software t: 0208 995 3258 e: admin@ischools.org.uk w: ischools.org.uk

Special Interest Articles:

- New innovations for 2013.
- Support for new MS versions.

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NEW INNOVATIONS FOR 2013

i-Schools **i-sMini** is now available which is another first for the development team at i-Schools.

The **i-sMini** is a family of Apps designed for the latest generation of Smartphones and Tablets.

Supported devices include the full range of Apple iPhones and iPads, Android devices such as the latest range from Samsung, and selected Tablets.

The family of Apps cover Pupil registers allowing the capture of registrations from the classroom. Class pupil data is downloaded, the register taken, and then uploaded.

Pupil data can also be accessed by teaching staff to obtain emergency contact numbers with direct dialing or text messaging.

Teaching staff can also

send out alerts to parents regarding forthcoming events such as trips and cake sales etc.

These Apps are designed to improve efficiency, reduce administration and put teaching staff in control without compromising teaching time.

The Apps cost between £10 and £20 per handset. For more details contact the Sales Team.

SUPPORT FOR NEW MS VERSIONS

With Microsoft now shipping Windows 8 which can be found on almost new PC's that are shipped from now.

i-Schools is fully supported on this platform and upgrades are automatic.

Not widely know, but Microsoft will discontinue support for Windows XP and MS Office 2003 from April 2014. There will be no updates after this date meaning security vulnerability.

This gives around 15

months to plan your migration to Windows 7 or 8. Talk to your IT Support Company, or Consultant for an upgrade plan. i-Schools will automatically upgrade to the new platform.

Also if you integrate i-Schools with MS Office the same upgrade path is recommended.

Current versions of MS Office are 2007 and 2010 with 2013 due for imminent release. Again any integrated spreadsheets and merge

documents that talk to the i-Schools database will be totally compatible and will not require any changes.

Please talk to our Support team if you require and help or advice.

Call us on 020 8995 3258.



“Nearly half of private schools expanding.”

Private Schools Expanding

Private schools are spending millions of pounds on building projects, despite the recession, says the Association of Teachers and Lecturers – ATL.

A survey by the ATL has revealed that many private schools are still investing in building facilities despite shrinking funds due to the recession.

However most of the

funding is raised from increased fees which work in some areas of the UK but not in all.

But schools must not lose sight of their most important asset, their staff. Shiny new sports halls and rowing clubs are great, but without their dedicated staff pupils would not be able to reach their potential.

While fees go up to pay

for new facilities, staff are seeing their living standards fall as their pay is frozen or increased at a rate below inflation. All independent school should reward their staff fairly.

Building projects revealed by the survey ranged from the grandiose such as an animal sanctuary, to more basic classroom space and teaching facilities.



Independent vs. State

More parents ‘would opt for an independent school’. Rising numbers of parents want to pull their children out of state schools to give them a private education, new figures show. More parents would opt for an independent school if they could afford the fees, according to research amid concerns over standards in the state sector.

They cited a higher standard of education, smaller class sizes, improved discipline and a “better start to life” as the main reasons for pulling their children out of the state system.

According to figures, 57% of families said they would choose a private school, compared to 54% last year and 41% in the late 90’s. The survey shows that the public increasingly

recognize the exceptional quality of education provided by independent schools.

The survey was published by the ISC and 2000 parents were asked “If you could afford it, would you send your child to an independent school or not”.



Technical Tips

Payslips. These can now be e-mailed to your staff. They are generated as pdf documents that are password protected and would normally be sent to personal email addresses. This not only reduces paper but provides a

secure way for staff to store payslips for future reference.

Extras on Invoices.

There is an easy way to add school trips and outings to invoices using the Extras button on fees generation. Type in the

description and amount, then choose the year group to select all pupils or select from a list.

For further details contact our Support team on:

support@ischools.org.uk