

# Hampshire IT Schools

Summer 2013

## Perfect summer reading

- The robots take over - page 3
- Computing curriculum - page 4
- ICT Strategic Forum - page 6
- Get Office 365 Email - page 19
- 'A Pinterest for education' - page 20

Plus updates from the Hosted School Service, SIMS and our Ten Year Plan

**DISTRIBUTION:** Please make this newsletter available to all members of staff, especially the headteacher, senior leaders, SIMS manager and IT staff

## Contents

- 3 My IT
- 4 Computing programme of study
- 5 ICT Lead Teachers
- 6 Upcoming events
- 7-18 SIMS
- 19 Office 365 Email
- 20-21 Wonders of the Web
- 22-23 Hosted School Service
- 24 Ten Year Plan

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and  
**Wonders of the web**

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If you'd like extra copies of the newsletter (or if you want to opt out of paper copies completely) please call the IT Help Desk on 01962 847007 or use the form at [www.hants.gov.uk/contactit](http://www.hants.gov.uk/contactit).

Let us know what you think of the newsletter. Contact us at [www.surveymonkey.com/s/hantsit](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/hantsit). Your feedback is always welcome.

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# Email filtering

The current McAfee email antivirus and anti-spam platform received criticism over the first few months of 2013 from partner, corporate and education users. Some have queried its effectiveness in correctly classifying emails.

We verified that a higher volume of genuine emails were being captured by the platform and categorised as either suspicious or definite spam, delaying emails or stopping them completely.

So now we are reviewing its features against the requirements of the business with a view to procuring a new solution if necessary.

In the short term we needed to take remedial action to mitigate the problem. As a first step, the supplier has reduced the weighting of email scoring; this has prevented the blocking of genuine emails and so improved the user experience.

McAfee determines that emails are spam, suspicious or genuine based on a set of mathematical algorithms. Hampshire IT staff cannot change the algorithms but there are some external weighting factors - provided by the supplier - that can be changed to affect the outcome of any decision the system makes. One factor in particular was seen to be increasing the number of false detections, so this has been changed to reduce its impact on the weighting.

Customers may notice that genuine emails are now permitted where previously blocked. A less desirable consequence of the change may be that additional marketing or advertising emails are received by users, but these can be managed by using the 'unsubscribe' feature within the email itself.

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# Point2Educate

The Point2Educate software streaming service is now live for HSS and non-HSS schools in Hampshire. Read about it here:

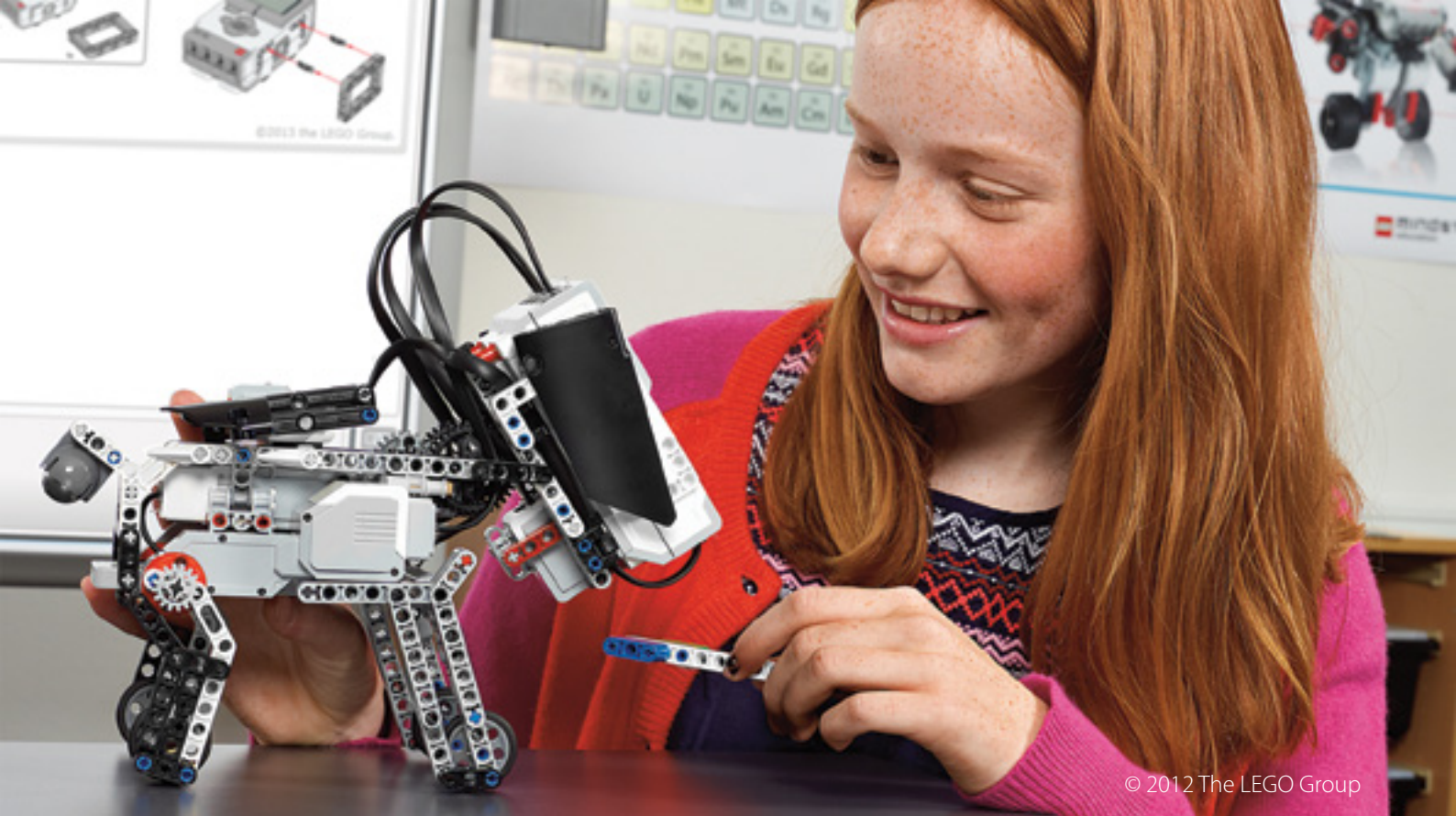
[www.hants.gov.uk/p2e](http://www.hants.gov.uk/p2e)

New content is being added to the service all the time, much of which is free. They've recently started a library of classic ebooks - with authors such as Austen, Hardy and H G Wells - and there's also a new web app development platform.

Using P2E is easier with the Hosted School Service. See page 22 for the latest on HSS, and see the redesigned website at

[www.hants.gov.uk/hss](http://www.hants.gov.uk/hss)

This publication is available in large print, in Braille, on audio tape or disk.  
Please contact the IT Help Desk on 01962 847007 if required.



© 2012 The LEGO Group

## I first became involved with Lego NXT Mindstorms robots after visiting BETT.

I came back inspired by what I had seen, feeling that the NXT robots were exactly what we needed for our forthcoming Year 8 STEM Day. Following a successful Curriculum Development bid we bought ten educational kits and a network licence for the software. There was much excitement when the robots arrived in school and I had no shortage of helpers to get us up and running.

The feedback we received from the students following our initial STEM day was extremely positive, with students (both boys and girls alike) voicing the wish to be provided with more opportunities for this kind of practical, hands-on learning.

Their only complaint was that of a lack of time to develop their projects.

This led to the introduction of an after school Robotics Club and a decision to change the format of STEM day, evolving it into an ICT day which lets students spend a full day working on a project area of their choice. Interestingly, while feedback had been equally positive from both boys and girls, when the element of choice came into the equation the take-up for the Robotics Workshops was predominantly male.

In Year 9 the students were invited to take part in a Robotics Challenge at Royal Holloway University. On arrival they were fascinated to discover the university also used the Lego NXT Mindstorms kits. The difference being the students there had progressed from

using NXT-G, which is an icon-based drag and drop programming language, to using more sophisticated programming languages.

Our next project was in the summer of 2011, working in conjunction with First Partnership and ably supported by two of my now Year 11 Digital Leaders: I ran a six week evening course for primary school children and their parents. The participants were Year 5 and 6 students and their parents from our local feeder schools. Again the feedback from both children and parents was overwhelmingly positive, with requests for us to run further courses. This turned into a wonderful transition project as the Year 6 students, on arrival at The Wavell, became my new Digital Leaders.

So far this group has supported me with outreach work in a number of our local primary schools running workshops with Year 5 and 6 students. A typical format for the workshops includes students spending the morning working in teams of three or four to build and program their robots. In the afternoon they then take part in a series of challenges that test their programming skills to the limit!

We have found levels of engagement and enjoyment for both boys and girls to be high, with students benefiting from having to collaborate and communicate with each other, work to deadlines and above all, to problem solve.

Our next challenge is to move forward with programming, looking at using Java, RobotC, LabView or Python to program the robots.

# My IT

A personal reflection on technology today



by Carol Giblen

Assistant Director of ICT  
at The Wavell School

Hire Lego Mindstorms  
for yourself from  
eLearn eTeach:

[www.hants.gov.uk/  
flightcases](http://www.hants.gov.uk/fightcases)



# Computing programme of study

The consultation for the new programmes of study for all subjects finished on 16 April. Although we are still waiting for the final documents there is likely to be little change to the published draft documents.

It is no accident that the name of the subject is changing from 'ICT' to 'Computing'. This change has arisen as a direct result of the Wolf Review and its criticism that some subjects lacked rigour. The review also noted the reduced popularity of ICT and Computer Science as a subject taken at the age of sixteen, and a concern about the UK maintaining its reputation as a country at the forefront of technological development.

The proposed aims of the curriculum are that all pupils:

- can understand and apply the fundamental principles of computer science - including logic, algorithms, data representation and communication
- can analyse problems in computational terms, and have repeated practical experience of writing computer programs to solve such problems
- can evaluate and apply information technology analytically (including new or unfamiliar technologies) to solve problems
- are responsible, competent, confident and creative users of information and communication technology.

This makes it apparent that there is an equal focus on computer studies and ICT. It is important to understand that computing will remain a statutory part of the curriculum from KS1 to KS4 and that Digital Literacy (ICT as was) and IT (how things work) remain essential parts of the curriculum.

Many schools in Hampshire have already introduced new programming languages such as Scratch and Python and re-introduced traditional sequencing applications, such as Logo.

The full curriculum can be viewed in the framework document, which you can download from the right-hand column on

<http://bit.ly/curriculum2013>

The content of the Computing Curriculum can be seen from pages 151 to 155.

And you can read about the Wolf Review at:

<http://bit.ly/wolfresponse>

**elearn  
eteach**

For courses that will provide professional development to support the new curriculum see

[www.hants.gov.uk/elearneteach](http://www.hants.gov.uk/elearneteach)



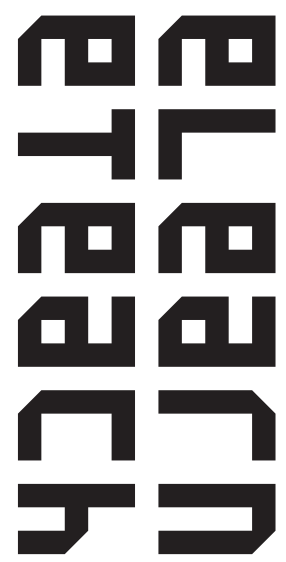
# ICT Lead Teachers

Expert ICT guidance for your school

Our three ICT Lead Teachers, Emma, Phil and Carol, have a vast range of experience in ICT in Hampshire schools, from graphics and multimedia to learning platforms, esafety and the new computing curriculum.

Many of you will have already benefited from their expertise. They are available to come to your school for a day or half day, to support and train you in ICT and computing, including running INSET sessions. Their skills encompass all aspects of ICT in school. See [www.hants.gov.uk/ictleadteachers](http://www.hants.gov.uk/ictleadteachers) for pricing.

To book one of the ICT Lead Teachers, simply email [elarneteach@hants.gov.uk](mailto:elarneteach@hants.gov.uk). The ICT Lead Teacher will then contact you directly to arrange the session.



## Emma Goto

Emma can help with:

- ICT to personalise learning in the primary curriculum
- ICT to enhance learning
- using whiteboards to engage learners
- multimedia programs to enhance learning
- ICT in the Early Years
- learning platforms and blogging to extend learning beyond the school and engage parents
- strategic planning and assessing of ICT
- developing children's programming skills at Key Stage 1 through the use of control technology.

## Phil Bagge

Phil can help with:

- inset training on any aspect of the new computing curriculum
- algorithmic thinking
- how networks work
- KS2 curriculum design - how to adapt the current ICT curriculum into a computing one
- evaluating schools' current hardware provision
- esafety for parents
- how to best use mobile devices including setup, curriculum integration and training.

## Carol Giblen

Carol can help with:

- Photoshop
- Flash
- Premiere Pro
- Dreamweaver
- Fireworks
- iMovie
- iPhoto
- podcasting using GarageBand
- stopframe animation/claymation.

Download our 2013-14 brochure at

[www.hants.gov.uk/elarneteach](http://www.hants.gov.uk/elarneteach)



# Upcoming events from Hampshire IT

## Hampshire ICT Conference 2013

27 June 2013

Our annual conference will be taking place in Winchester on 27 June.

The theme this year is **change and innovation**

We'll be identifying key development requirements within the ICT / Computer Studies programme of study. There will be opportunities for delegates to attend workshops focusing on sequencing and programming as well as green screening and esafety.

We'll provide opportunities for delegates to try new technologies and of course there is also the invaluable networking and sharing of ideas.

Our keynote speaker is Miles Berry. Previously a teacher in Hampshire, Miles is now chair of NAACE and a senior lecturer at Roehampton College. He has been at the forefront of many developments in ICT in education.

For more about Miles see:

**[www.naace.co.uk/BoardOfManagement/MilesBerry](http://www.naace.co.uk/BoardOfManagement/MilesBerry)**

There are opportunities for all professionals at all phases so everybody is welcome.

## ICT Strategic Forum 2013

30 September 2013

This September we will be hosting an event for school leaders to share, discuss and debate the strategic issues in education regarding ICT.

Topics of debate will include:

- **Developing the school workforce**  
How best to continually develop staff.
- **Bring your own devices**  
What are the issues?  
What are the options?  
Which platform is best?  
How will this work with Hampshire IT services?  
We will have partners from Microsoft and other representatives to answer questions.
- **Making better use of performance data for school improvement**
- **Strategic investment in ICT**

In previous years we have had some fantastic debate and ideas shared across the school community. If you are in a leadership position in a school you would be welcome to contribute. We look forward to seeing you on 30 September.

To book on either event - or both - go to **[www.hants.gov.uk/elearneteacherevents](http://www.hants.gov.uk/elearneteacherevents)**

# What's new in SIMS?

**The SIMS Spring 2013 Release and SIMS Discover and SIMS Learning Gateway upgrades were delivered to schools, academies and education centres in April.**

Full details of the changes are published in the usage notes on the SIMS Hantsnet pages:

<http://intranet.hants.gov.uk/sims-spring-2013>

As well as enabling schools to meet their statutory requirements, we really don't want you to miss out on the added benefits that can be gained from the latest improvements delivered in SIMS upgrades, so please make sure the details from our publications are shared with the relevant members of staff.

Here some of the highlights ...

## SIMS Assessment

The Spring 2013 release of SIMS introduced two extra rows called the median value and median grade to the summary rows on Assessment marksheets.

To see the median, click the **Summary** button at the top of any marksheet to display the summary rows at the bottom. Any column that shows a number or a grade will now show the median value, with the existing mean summary.

Students	GA KS4 Target	Eng KS4 Target	Altian GCSE Eng Year 10 Autumn Term	Residual GCSE Eng Year 10 Autumn Term	On Target GCSE Eng Year 10 Autumn Term
ABBEY, Jimmy	D	C	6	A	
ABBOT, Susan	B	A	6	A	
AINSWORTH, Zoe	B	B	0	0	
ALLEN, Bary	E	D	6	A	
ATLIERI, Camela	C	B	6	A	
BAILEY, Annalicia	C	C	0	0	
BARDELL, James	B	A	6	A	
Total	6546	6304	438	377	
Number of Results	159	159	159	159	
Mean	41.17	43.92	2.75	2.37	
Median	40.00	46.00	6.00	3.00	
Mean Grade	C	C	D		
Median Grade	C	B	A		

The mean value is useful when the data is evenly spread. However, if you have some unusual results they can skew the mean value, making it unreliable. The median is just the middle value of a set of results and is not skewed by exceptionally high or low results.

In addition the Pupil Premium Indicator is available to add as an additional data column either through the template set up or in the marksheet. This indicator is also available as a group filter. This means that the progress of this group can be monitored whenever data is collected and compared with the progress of the whole year or other vulnerable groups.

## New SIMS Home Page

The SIMS Home Page arrived in the SIMS Spring 2013 Release. It was very disappointing that this new functionality caused some performance issues in larger schools. Capita issued this statement:

"Please accept our apologies for the inconvenience caused by the time taken to improve the performance of the home page and therefore the delay for some of you in using the enhanced functionality provided by the spring release."

We expect that by the time this article is published a fix will have been applied to rectify the issue.

Previous versions of the Home Page referred to the displayed items as 'panels'. These are now replaced with 'widgets'. For the technically minded, a widget is a generic term for the part of a graphical user interface that allows the user to interface with the application!

On upgrade to this release, the existing Home Page settings and user permissions are retained and the following new widgets can be configured by use of the Configure icon on the top right side of the screen:

My Timeline	School Bulletin	School Diary
My Reminders	Favourites	My Messages
Assessment Summary	Conduct Summary	Attendance Summary
My Scheduled Reports	Missing Registers Notification	Scheduled Detention Sessions

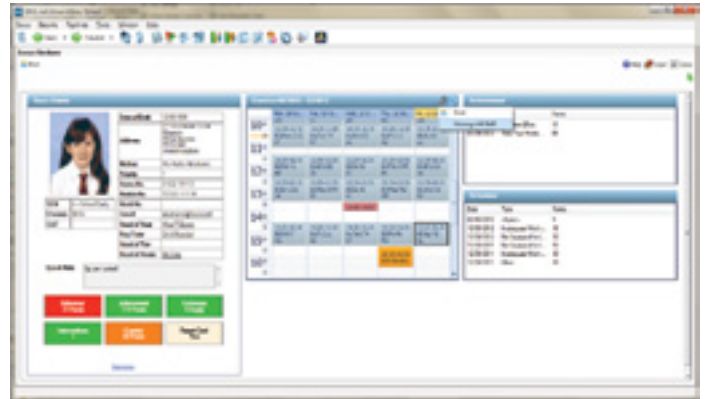
## New pupil teacher view

Similarly, the pupil teacher view had a redesign (right).

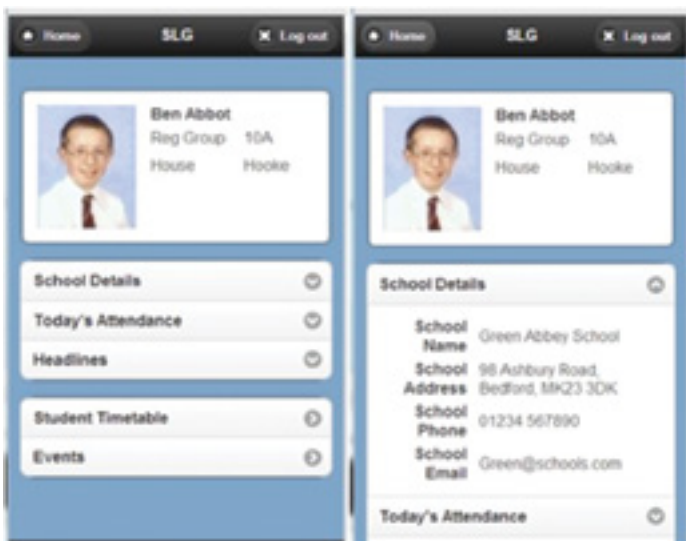
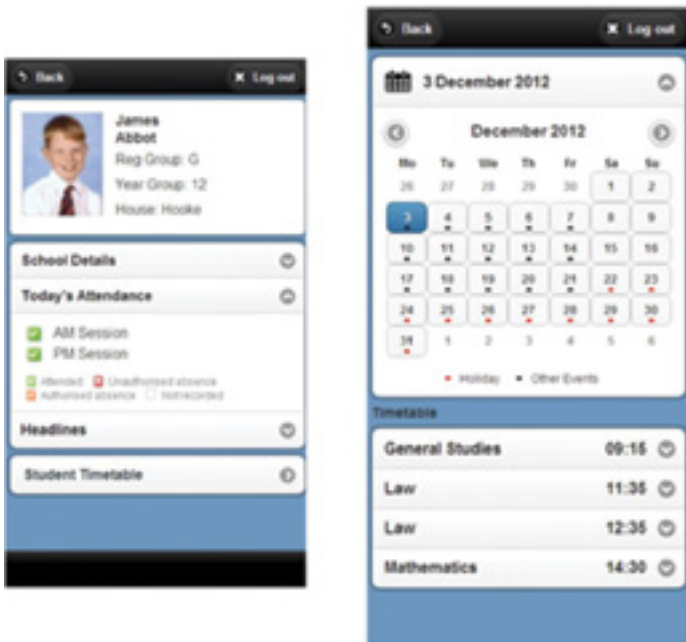
A guide for the 'New look Home Page', 'pupil teacher view' and quick reference sheets are reproduced for you on pages 13 to 18. Capita has also produced a short video which can be viewed from:

[www.youtube.com/hampshireitvideos](http://www.youtube.com/hampshireitvideos)

Click 'Playlists' then 'SIMS videos'.



## SIMS Learning Gateway goes mobile



Some of our schools have told us that there is not enough in SIMS Learning Gateway to retain interest from parents and students and that they regard the interface as a bit clinical.

Others have said parents would like to access it more regularly but after a long day at work it is too much effort to face opening the laptop again and children just aren't interested if they have to use a PC to get to their information.

Many of us use our phones by default for email, Facebook, eBay etc. and we want instant access on mobile devices, so why not get summary information for your child or allow them to access timetables in the same way?

Well change is coming with the Spring 2013 release and at no additional charge. In this upgrade, Capita has introduced a smartphone browser view for your pupils and their parents so they can view summary information on the move. The new smartphone browser view is intelligent enough to know what type of device is being used, so it will give the relevant view.

Capita has enhanced the original design so that parents don't need to leave the SIMS Learning Gateway browser view to see your school's phone number or email if they need to make contact (if that is your school's choice). And just think about students being able to access their own timetables from their phones - school policy permitting of course!

Although this new functionality is with the Spring Release, the Hampshire IT team is currently deploying it and making some additions to the hosted infrastructure so that you can use it following the main SIMS Learning Gateway upgrade. We will be sending you the instructions shortly.

# SIMS Learning Gateway: Student Dashboard

The Student Dashboard has also been updated for the Spring 2013 Release and has addressed the perception that SIMS Learning Gateway just isn't interactive enough. The update was demonstrated at the recent SIMS Learning Gateway seminar and SIMS for School Improvement seminars and was very well received.

Here's a preview of what's in this release:



Some of the features:

- ✓ The page is more user friendly than before and can be used by teachers, parents or carers and students.
- ✓ The graphically enhanced and flexible display allows school administrators to determine layout and set up Assessment Charts in SIMS for use in SIMS Learning Gateway.
- ✓ Users can view essential student information at a single glance, including student details, attendance, conduct, KPIs and assessment information.
- ✓ Dedicated SIMS Learning Gateway Assessment Charts can now be created in SIMS for display in the Assessment web part on the Student Dashboard.
- ✓ Aspects in SIMS can be linked to a template that allows the information to be plotted onto a graph and made available to SIMS Learning Gateway users.
- ✓ The Data Collection Sheet wizard for parents has been enhanced, allowing School Site Administrators to hide steps, as determined by the school.
- ✓ And not forgetting Mobile Views: a new, mobile-optimised site allows students and parents to view essential student information wherever they are on any device they choose.

Please note: the functionality in this version requires the SIMS client application to be upgraded to the Spring 2013 Release before it can be used. As a result, the new Dashboard has not been automatically deployed to all SIMS Learning Gateway schools to avoid users getting no data returned while SIMS is not upgraded. This also gives you time to view and assess the guidance notes before deploying to your users.

These guidance notes (under the SLG tab) and the upgrade page are available at:

<http://intranet.hants.gov.uk/sims-help-sheets>

<http://intranet.hants.gov.uk/sims-spring-2013>

Please contact the IT Help Desk when you have upgraded SIMS to the Spring 2013 Release and we will activate the new functionality for you (the existing software will continue unchanged until you contact us).



# Thank you for joining us at the **SIMS for School Improvement** seminars

*A very important seminar. I want to use data more to improve my school - can't wait for Discover.*

Junior school headteacher

*More, more, more like this.*

Secondary SIMS manager

We were delighted to welcome over 400 colleagues from 225 schools across the county who stepped away from their busy schedules to attend our 'SIMS for School Improvement' seminars in March.

Headteachers, senior leaders and SIMS managers had the chance to see the latest software developments that focused on the theme of using SIMS for school improvement and how the management information system can support evidence for the four areas of Ofsted judgment:

- the achievement of pupils at the school
- the quality of teaching in the school
- the behaviour and safety of pupils at the school
- the quality of leadership in, and management of, the school.

*How powerful SIMS can be - hoping to implement into school fully. Really enjoyed it and left feeling excited and inspired.*

Deputy headteacher

The enthusiasm and positive feedback we received from you was testament to the expertise and knowledge of our guest presenters, who made the seminar the success it was.

Hampshire IT colleagues were on hand with laptops and the latest version of SIMS, offering delegates the chance to try out the new software and speak one-on-one to our experienced consultants.

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### Our thanks

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We'd like to extend our sincere thanks to all the presenters who participated in the seminars:

- **Jane Girle (headteacher) and Joanne Sheridan (acting deputy head and Year 6 teacher) from Penn Wood primary and nursery school.**  
Jane and Joanne showed how SIMS is embedded and used by all staff. They inspired the audience with their demonstrations about the way SIMS has transformed progress tracking and raised attainment across the school. One primary headteacher said "this session was a revelation!"
- **Janette Hall, school improvement consultant at Capita.**  
Janette discussed the evidence Ofsted are looking for when they visit schools and how that evidence can be verified using the data held in SIMS. Janette's presentation of the new SIMS Home Page and the teacher view of the pupil expertly showed just how powerful the system really is.
- **Ben Jones, product marketing manager at Capita.**  
Ben shared his obvious enthusiasm about the latest exciting features of SIMS Learning Gateway that can help schools to engage and communicate effectively with learners and parents using the new Student Dashboard and SLG for mobile devices.

Their willingness to share their invaluable experience really brought these sessions to life.




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### Your feedback is important to us

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Our gratitude also goes to all delegates who filled in the seminar evaluation forms. Your feedback gives us a chance to discover what you truly want from SIMS and Hampshire IT services in general.

Unfortunately there were some forms that had requests but we are unable to follow these up directly because no delegate or school name was supplied. However, there was a pattern to the themes for requests for resources, which we are preparing now and will be published on the SIMS Hantsnet pages shortly. Don't forget that attendance at the seminar provided a CPD opportunity too.

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### Post-seminar resources

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Plus, don't forget to visit the SIMS Hantsnet pages regularly for up-to-date information. We have taken on board what you have said: that you needed more help to put in practice what you have seen. So you will find the latest resources, which we are providing as a direct result of the common themes gathered at the seminars. These are some of the topics and guides requested:

- how to set up and use the new Home Page – including setting up and using interventions to measure impact of intervention on learning
- using the teacher student/pupil view
- transition matrices data like those found in RAISE
- analysis to show APS scores for different groups so it does not have to be manually worked out using the summary data from marksheets
- setting up, analysing and reporting using the Pupil Premium Indicator to measure impact of spending of pupil premium income
- setting up and using dynamic user-defined groups
- setting up the systems in the Teaching and Learning and Performance Analysis reports that were demonstrated by Janette Hall.

Janette's presentation at the secondary seminar was so popular that we are arranging for her to come back to Hampshire to deliver a training course for secondary school senior leaders.

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- ◀ We were also joined by representatives from the animal kingdom as staff from The Mountbatten School dressed as crocodiles to raise money for the school's charities.



## BYOD and data protection in school

The increasing popularity of Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) initiatives means that schools need to have an in-depth understanding of the technologies being used in school, and to assess and mitigate any risks.

BYOD in a school often refers to the perspective of the student. However many schools also allow staff to use their own technology.

The Information Commissioner's Office has recently released a BYOD guide. Although the guidance is not specifically aimed at schools, it does give a good insight into their expectations if BYOD is something you are already doing, or are thinking of implementing.

Simply speaking, if you do allow staff or students to use their own devices you need to ascertain whether there is any personal information held or processed on each device. For example, are there any files with student data such as name and date of birth? If so, at a minimum those devices should be encrypted.

The ICO guide can be found here:

<http://www.ico.org.uk/byod>

It is a good, concise and factual document that can form part of your esafety toolkit.

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## Have you registered with the Information Commissioner's Office?

**Under the Data Protection Act, schools are their own data controllers and are responsible for registering with the Information Commissioner's Office.**

All schools processing personal data must comply with the eight principles of good practice. Data must be:

1. fairly and lawfully processed
2. processed for limited purposes
3. adequate, relevant and not excessive
4. accurate
5. not kept longer than necessary
6. processed in accordance with the data subject's rights
7. secure
8. not transferred to other countries without adequate protection.

To comply with these principles every school which processes personal data must notify under the Act. Failure to notify is a criminal offence.

You can find out more about your school's need to notify from the Information Commissioner's website:

<http://www.ico.org.uk/registration>

The ICO also maintains a public register of data controllers. Each register entry includes the name and address of the data controller and details about the types of personal information they process.

You can check your own registration here:

<http://www.ico.org.uk/ESDWebPages/search.asp>

# The SIMS Home Page

## Configuring and Using

The **SIMS Home Page** is displayed automatically each time you log into SIMS and provides an overview of the key content in your SIMS system, such as your timeline, the School Diary, your messages and group summary information (attendance, conduct and assessments).

By default, the **My Timeline** and **School Bulletin** widgets (panels) are displayed but further panels can be added or removed as required, depending on whether any locks have been put in place. For more information, please contact your System Manager/Administrator.

Many of the widgets can be configured to display information relevant to your role in school. For example, a Head of Year might choose to display assessment results by registration group, whereas a Head of Department might display assessment results for all Maths groups. For more information on using the SIMS Home Page, please refer to the *Configuring and Using the SIMS Home Page* mini guide.

The **My Timeline** widget displays a timeline for classes you will be teaching over the selected period (applicable only to Class Teachers and Teaching Assistants).

The **Configure** button enables you to set up the number, layout and order of the widgets on the Home Page.

A wide range of user documentation is available from the **Documentation Centre**, accessed by clicking the **Documentation** button.

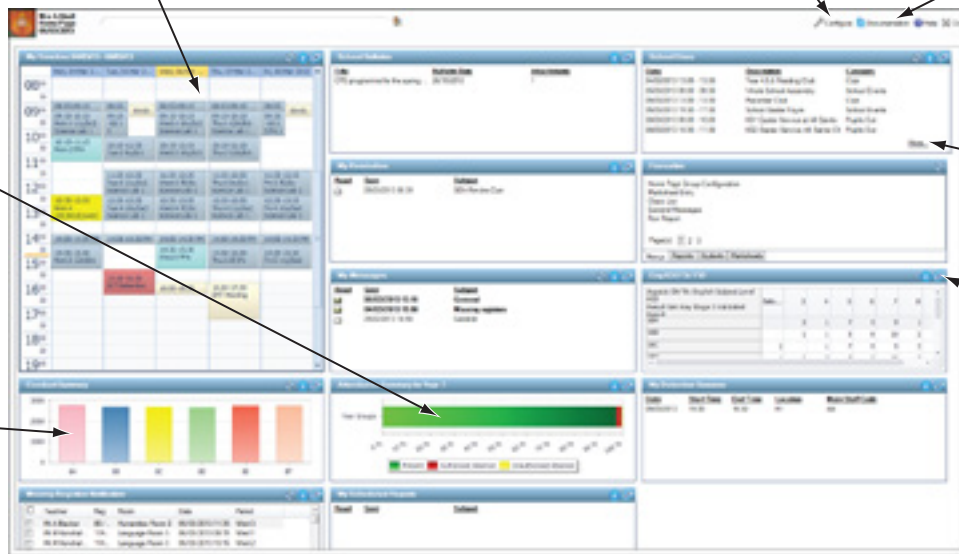
The pupil/students who make up each of the categories on a chart can be viewed by double-clicking the required segment. For example, double-click the **Unauthorised Absence** segment in the **Attendance Summary** panel to display those who have this mark recorded against them over the specified date range.

The **More...** hyperlink is displayed here on panels when more information is available.

Double-click a section of the bar chart to display the associated pupil/students. From the list, you can access the Teacher View. Please refer to the *Pupil (or Student) Teacher View Quick Reference Sheet*.

Each widget can be increased to full screen mode, enabling you to view more information, by clicking the **Expand** button. The widget can be reduced to normal size by clicking the **Restore** button.

New users of SIMS will not see any content in some of the widgets until they are configured.



## Overview of the SIMS Home Page Panels

### My Timeline Widget

Applicable to Class Teachers and Teaching Assistants in Primary/Secondary schools only

In Primary schools, the **My Timeline** widget displays the name of your class on a timeline, organised into AM and PM sessions. In Secondary schools, the timetable for the current user is shown. Right-click options are available from the timeline.

### School Bulletins Widget

School bulletins can be published by users with School Administrator or Administrative Assistant permissions. Once published, they can be opened and viewed by all SIMS users.

*NOTE: If the number of published bulletins exceeds the number that can be displayed in the **School Bulletins** widget, the **More** hyperlink enables access to the additional bulletins in full screen mode.*

### Summary Widgets

The **Attendance Summary**, **Assessment Summary** and **Conduct Summary** widgets display information for one or more selected groups over a defined period of time. For attendance and conduct summaries, the view can be toggled between a chart and a data table. Multiple instances of summary panels can be displayed on the Home Page, enabling you to view information for a range of groups and time periods.

### My Scheduled Reports Widget

The **My Scheduled Reports** widget is used to display any reports that you have scheduled to run automatically.

### Favourites Widget

To facilitate navigation in SIMS to areas that you visit most frequently, SIMS monitors and records the most commonly accessed functional areas and provides them as shortcuts via the **Favourites** widget. Shortcuts to menus, reports (marked as **Favourites** in **Reports | Run Report**), individual pupil/students and marksheets are provided.

### My Detention Sessions Widget

Any detention sessions for which you are the main staff member assigned are displayed in the **My Detention Sessions** widget.

### My Messages Widget

Any messages sent to you by other SIMS users are displayed in the **My Messages** widget. Click anywhere on a message line to display its content in the **Read Message** dialog. Messages can then be printed, deleted or replied to.

### My Reminders Widget

SIMS can be configured to generate a reminder to advise users of forthcoming deadlines, e.g. free school meal eligibility, medical events, SEN reviews, etc.

Each SIMS user can specify the reminders they want to set and the number of days prior to the event occurring that the reminder should be generated and sent to the applicable member(s) of staff. The reminders are displayed in the **My Reminders** widget on the SIMS Home Page. The date the reminder was **Sent**, the **Subject** line and the **Read** status is displayed.

### School Diary Widget

The School Diary is used to record and display any school events that occur during the course of the academic year. These might include school trips, training days, staff meetings, parent consultation evenings, etc.

Any school events are displayed in the **School Diary** widget.

### Missing Registers Notification Widget

Applicable to users with Attendance Manager permissions only

It is possible to display a list of registers that have not been completed within a specified number of minutes after a lesson or session starts. The period of time after which notifications will be displayed is defined as part of the widget configuration process.

It is also possible to access the registers to complete missing marks.

The **Missing Registers Notification** widget displays any registers that have not been completed after a defined period of time (e.g. 10 minutes after a lesson or session starts). Any missing or incomplete register is displayed in this panel. The panel displays details of the registration tutor/class teacher, the session or lesson, the room, date and period.

# The SIMS Home Page

## Configuring and Using

### Configuring the SIMS Home Page

The SIMS **Home Page** can be configured to display information relevant to your role.

Working from left to right, panels (widgets) are added in the next available space on the Home Page. Where no space exists to the right, it is placed in the next space available on the next available row.

The content of the **Grid** can be configured. For example, a Head of Year may wish to display conduct information by registration group, whereas a Head Teacher may wish to display it by year group.

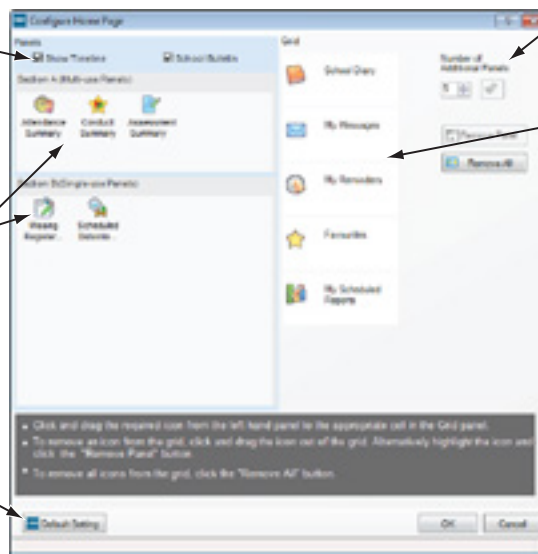
#### Did you know?

- Your Home Page widget configuration is retained when your SIMS system is upgraded.
- Changes to your Home Page widget configuration do not affect the Home Page display of other users.
- Widgets can be removed by clicking and dragging them out of the **Grid**.

Add or remove the **My Timeline** or **School Bulletins** widgets here.

These are the widgets that can be added to the SIMS **Home Page**. More than one instance of a multi-use panel can be added, enabling you to monitor more than one group at a time.

You can revert to the widget layout defined by your Home Page group by clicking the **Default Setting** button. Before using this functionality, please contact your System Manager/Administrator.



Adjust the size of the **Grid** here.

The **Grid** shows the widgets that will be displayed on the Home Page when the configuration is saved. Drag additional widgets into the **Grid**.

Home Page groups enable you to define a pre-defined widget layout for a group of SIMS users, e.g. Class Teachers, Heads of Year, etc.

The panels assigned to each Home Page group can be locked to ensure that users cannot remove them from their Home Page. This functionality can also be used to prevent users from displaying additional panels on their Home Page. If you cannot add or remove panels, please contact your System Manager/Administrator.

### Configuring the Grid Panel

- Click the **Configure** button at the top of the SIMS **Home Page** to display the **Configure Home Page** dialog.
- To adjust the **Grid** size, click the up or down arrows in the **Number of Additional Panels** section.
- To effect the change, click the **Configure layout** button.

Reducing the number of panels to less than the number that has been selected for display causes a confirmation message to be displayed. Click the **Yes** button to confirm.



Configure layout button

- Click the **OK** button to save the changes and return to the SIMS **Home Page**.

### Adding Panels to the Home Page

- Click and drag the required panel in one of the left-hand panels into the required position on the **Grid**. For multi-use panels, repeat this as many times as necessary.
- Repeat step 1 until all of the required panels are displayed in the **Grid**.
- Click the **OK** button to save the changes and return to the SIMS **Home Page**.

### Removing Panels from the Home Page

- Click the required panel in the **Grid** then click the **Remove Panel** button.
- Repeat step 1 until only the required widgets are displayed in the **Grid**. To remove all widgets, click the **Remove All** button.
- Click the **OK** button to save the changes and return to the SIMS **Home Page**.

### Increasing the Size of Panels on the Home Page

Many of the panels on the Home Page can be maximised so that they are displayed as a separate page, providing a larger viewing area and access to more items in a list.

- Click the **Maximise** button in the top right-hand corner of a panel to enlarge the panel to a full screen display.
- Click the **Restore** button on the expanded page to minimise the page back to a panel.



Maximise button



Restore button

### Returning to the Home Page Defaults

You can revert to the preset widgets and widget order by clicking the **Default Setting** button on the **Configure Home Page** dialog then clicking the **OK** button.

### Changing the Panel Order

With the exception of **My Timeline** and **School Bulletins**, widgets can be re-arranged, enabling you to position those deemed the most important, or most used, at the top of the Home Page.

Click and drag the panel you want to move into the new **Grid** location, causing the panels to swap position. Repeat as necessary then click the **OK** button.

### Setting Panel Refresh Rates

The panels on the Home Page refresh automatically, updating the information after a set period of time. Each panel refreshes individually, and this is indicated by a rotating **Refresh** icon.



Refresh button

Some of the panels refresh at a fixed rate, while the refresh rate of other panels can be set individually.

- Click the **Options** button on the required panel then select **Configure** from the pop-up menu.
- Enter the required **Refresh rate** then click the **OK** button to confirm the setting. The amended refresh setting comes into effect immediately.

**WARNING:** Careful consideration should be given when adding panels to the Home Page. A number of these panels have frequent refresh rates, so a large number of panels displaying on several workstations could lead to performance issues. All areas of SIMS may show a reduction in performance as a consequence.

# CAPITA

For details of SIMS training, see  
[www.hants.gov.uk/elearneteach](http://www.hants.gov.uk/elearneteach)

# SIMS

## NEW look SIMS Homepage

A completely transformed SIMS Homepage and Student Teacher View can now detect your screen resolution; with widgets that automatically arrange themselves to reduce space and provide the maximum amount of information about your students. We've also introduced Timeline features into a user-friendly calendar, including tools to personalise your view.

### My Timeline

Content of the Timeline expanded to show school diary, detentions and exam invigilation.

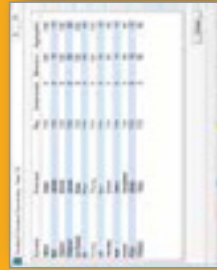


Timeline View can be changed to suit the user.



Right clicking the cell provides the user with options.

### Conduct Summary



Right clicking on an individual student gives the user the opportunity to view either the Student Teacher View or the Behaviour tab.

Double clicking the conduct graph will give a grid of the students' achievement, behaviour and aggregated points.

### Favourites

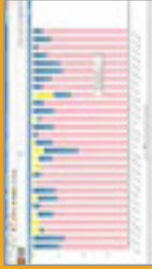
Four favourite widgets combined into one.

User Defined and Discover Groups added to Group Types.

Achievement and Behaviour configuration combined; by selecting both types a new conduct graph of aggregated points is created.



### Attendance Summary



Expanding the Registration Group Attendance widget shows students' comparative attendance. Expanding a year group shows the comparative attendance of the Registration Groups.

Right clicking on an individual student gives the user the opportunity to view either the Student Teacher View or the Student Attendance summary.

Double clicking the Attendance key will give a grid of the students contributing to that category.

# NEW look Student Teacher View

The new look Student Teacher View is now customisable enabling you to choose which widgets are relevant to your school

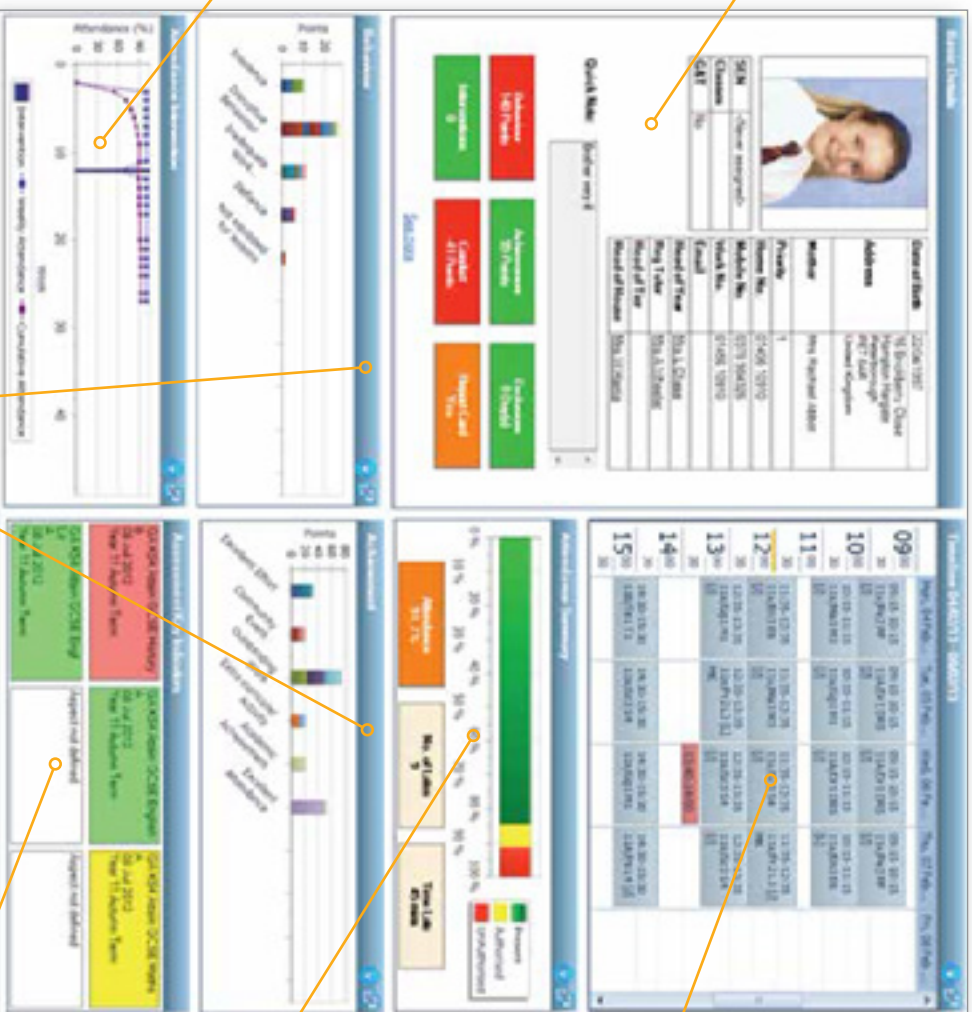
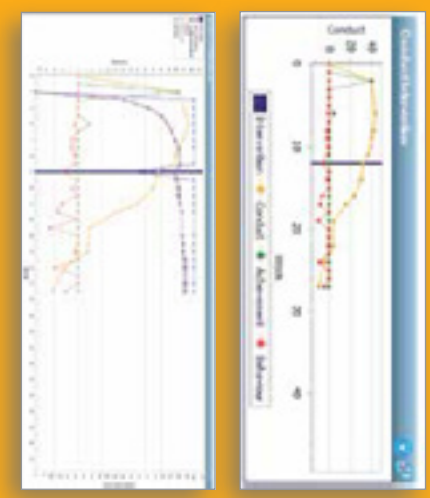
## Basic Details

New clearer basic details widget with indicators added for interventions and overall conduct points. The report card indicator will be green unless the student is on report now. It then shows red and amber if on report at some time during the academic year.

## Intervention Widget

Interventions recorded against the student are displayed on a graph showing either the weekly and cumulative attendance or the weekly achievement, behaviour and conduct point which the user toggles between via the drop down menu.

Expanding the graph combines both graphs with the attendance scale on the right hand side.



## My Timetable

Timetable View is configurable. The user can choose from day, working week, week and month views.

Lesson or session attendance marks are shown. Clicking on a lesson enables the user to send a SIMS message to the main supervisor (InTouch users) will get the InTouch message interface. Message all staff who teach the student is also an available option.

Detentions and SEN reviews for the student are also shown.

## Attendance Widget

The Attendance widget shows the percentage of session attendance, number of times and minutes late to sessions. The red, amber, green status of the percentage session attendance can be configured. Clicking on the Attendance cell takes the user to the Student's Attendance summary.

## Assessment Widget

The Assessment widget can be configured to show up to six aspects for each year group. The colours are taken from those stored in the aspect.

## Intervention Widget

Behaviour and achievement events are categorised and graphed.

For details of SIMS training, see [www.hants.gov.uk/elearnteach](http://www.hants.gov.uk/elearnteach)

# CAPITA

# Pupil (or Student) Teacher View

## Viewing and Configuring

The **Pupil (or Student) Teacher View** page provides class teachers with a summary of the key information relating to any pupil/student in their registration group or class in the current academic year.

1. Select **Focus | Pupil (or Student) | Pupil (or Student) Teacher View** to display the **Find Student** browser.
2. Search for then select the required pupil/student to display the **Pupil (or Student) Teacher View** page.

**NOTE:** All the information displayed on this page is read-only. To change any of the information, you must access the appropriate area of SIMS, amend the details then re-open the **Pupil (or Student) Teacher View** page.

Clicking the **Print** button displays the Student Teachers View report in your web browser.

Contact details are displayed in the **Basic Details** panel. The pupil/student's name is displayed in the page header.

The **Timeline** displays the lessons, detention sessions and any SEN reviews that the selected pupil/student is scheduled to attend over the selected period.

Where an **Options** button is displayed at the top of a widget, additional functionality is available. Click the button to access this functionality, i.e. the toggling of the view between a chart and the underlying data (**Toggle**), the option to **Print** the content of the widget and to **Message All Staff** (both in the **Timeline** widget).

The pupil/student's **SEN** status (if defined), the current class (based on the system date and time) and any gifted and talented (**G&T**) details are displayed.

Click the **See more** hyperlink to display the pupil/student's emergency contacts. Any contact with a priority of 1 or 2 is displayed.

This area of the **Basic Details** widget displays summaries of a pupil/student's behaviour incidents, achievements, exclusions, interventions, conduct and report cards.

Clicking any of these hyperlinks displays the **Send Message** dialog, enabling you to send a message to another member of staff.

**TIP:** Click the **Options** button on widgets that show a graph then select **Toggle** to display the data used to populate the graph. Right-click the data items for alternative layout options.

### Basic Details Widget

The selected pupil/student's **Basic Details** are displayed. If they have been assigned a **SEN** status, this is displayed as is their current class (in the **Classes** field, based on the system date and time) and any gifted and talented (**G&T**) details.

Details of key members of staff are also displayed. Send an internal message to a member of staff by clicking their hyperlinked name. Send a message to a home contact by clicking their **Email** address.

The **Quick Note** field displays any notes recorded in the pupil/student record. If the note is lengthy, use the up and down arrows to view all the text.

Colour coded and hyperlinked key indicators are displayed, which provide a summary of a pupil/student's behaviour incidents, achievements, exclusions and interventions. Their aggregated conduct points (achievement points minus behaviour points) are also displayed, together with an indication as to whether they have an active report card.

Click a hyperlink to navigate to the area in SIMS where you can view and edit the details. For example, clicking the **Behaviour** hyperlink displays the **Behaviour Management** page.

The totals are colour based on the settings defined in **Tools | Setups | Pupil (or Student) Teacher View**. Please see *Configuring the Pupil (or Student) Teacher View* for more information.

Values displayed in red indicate an area of concern that should be closely monitored. Values displayed in green indicate areas that are satisfactory or good. Values displayed in amber indicate that this particular area could be a cause for concern for the selected pupil/student.

Click the **See more** hyperlink to display emergency contact details, where hyperlinks are available on recorded email addresses to facilitate the sending of an email.

### Timeline Widget

The pupil/student's timetable is displayed in the **Timeline** widget. By default, the selected pupil/student's timetable is displayed for the current working week. Today's date is indicated on the timeline by a yellow highlight on the date in the heading row. The current time can be deduced by viewing the intersection of the highlighted date in the column header and the highlighted time bar displayed in the row header.

Detention sessions that a pupil/student is scheduled to attend are displayed with a red background and SEN reviews are displayed with an amber background.

**TIP:** Many of the widgets can be expanded to display its content in full screen mode. Click the **Expand** button to maximise the required widget to full screen mode. Once maximised, the widget can be reduced to its original size by clicking the **Restore** button.

# Pupil (or Student) Teacher View

## Viewing and Configuring

### Configuring the Pupil (or Student) Teacher View

School administrators can specify the default settings for the **Pupil (or Student) Teacher View** page, to correspond with the school's behaviour policy and the assessment and attendance monitoring procedures.

Select **Tools | Setups | Pupil (or Student) Teacher View** to display the **Pupil (or Student) Teacher View Setup** page. Alternatively, click the **Pupil/Student Teacher View** button.



Pupil/Student Teacher View button

**1 Teacher View Defaults**

Open Teacher View screen by default

**2 Key Indicators**

**Positive Key Indicators**

Description	Display as Green if greater than	Display as Red if less than
Attendance	95	80
Achievement	10	5
Conduct	5	0

**Negative Key Indicators**

Description	Display as Green if less than	Display as Red if greater than
Behaviour	2	3
Exclusion	2	3
Intervention	1	2

\*If value is between the Red and Green range, it will be displayed in Amber

**3 Assessment Key Indicators**

Curriculum Year

- Curriculum Year 7
- Curriculum Year 8
- Curriculum Year 9
- Curriculum Year 10
- Curriculum Year 11
- Curriculum Year 12

**Aspects for the selected NC Year**

English Progress Towards Target

Add Delete

**4 Widgets**

Show Timeline

Description	Move Up	Move Down
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Achievement		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Behaviour		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assessment Key Indicators		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attendance Summary		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Intervention Tracker		

### Setting the Teacher View Defaults

Selecting the **Open Teacher View screen by default** check box changes the functionality of the left-hand icon on the quick launch toolbar to display the **Pupil (or Student) Teacher View** page. This setting affects only the current user. Click the **Save** button then restart SIMS to affect the change.

### Specifying Key Indicators Colours

The **Attendance**, **Achievement** and **Conduct** information are shown as **Positive Key Indicators** on the **Pupil (or Student) Teacher View** page because the higher the percentage displayed, the better their attendance.

**Behaviour**, **Exclusion** and **Intervention** information are shown as a **Negative Key Indicators** because a high value shown in these areas suggests there is concern about the behaviour of the selected pupil/student.

1. In the **Positive Key Indicators** panel, click in the **Display as Green if greater than** cell adjacent to the applicable row heading then enter an appropriate percentage, e.g. **95%**.
2. Click the associated **Display as Red if less than** cell then enter an appropriate percentage, e.g. **85%**.

3. Repeat steps 1 and 2 for all **Positive Key Indicators**.
4. In the **Negative Key Indicators** panel, click in the **Display as Green if less than** cell adjacent to the applicable row header then enter an appropriate value, e.g. 2. If this indicator displays as green on the Pupil (or Student) Teacher View, this suggests that there are no ongoing behavioural problems to address.
5. Click the associated **Display as Red if greater than** cell then enter an appropriate value, e.g. 3.
6. Repeat steps 3 and 4 for all **Negative Key Indicators** then click the **Save** button.

### Specifying the Assessments to be Displayed

Appropriate Key Stage levels of attainment can be displayed as part of the **Assessment Key Indicators** summary on the **Pupil (or Student) Teacher View** page.

1. In the **Assessment Key Indicators** panel, highlight the required **Curriculum Year**.
2. Click the **Add** button in the **Aspects for the selected NC Year** section to display the **Aspect Browser** dialog.
 

*NOTE: A maximum of six aspects can be selected. If six aspects are already displayed, delete one from the list before adding another.*
3. Click the **+** or **-** symbols to expand or contract the list then select the check box adjacent to each required category to filter the list. Click anywhere on the **Name** row then click the **Select** button to save the selection. Repeat this process for each aspect you wish to select.
 

The selected aspects are displayed in the **Aspects for the selected NC Year** panel.
4. Click the **Save** button.

### Selecting the Widgets to Display

You can define the range of widgets displayed on the Pupil (or Student) Teacher View and the order in which they are displayed. It is also possible to toggle the display of the **Timeline** widget.

**4 Widgets**

Show Timeline

Description	Move Up	Move Down
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Achievement		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Behaviour		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assessment Key Indicators		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attendance Summary		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Intervention Tracker		

1. In the **Widgets** panel, select the **Show Timeline** check box, if required.
2. Select the check box of the other widget(s) you wish to display.
3. Set the widget display order by clicking a widget then clicking either the **Move Up** or **Move Down** button.

*TIP: The **Basic Details** widget is always displayed as the first widget. If selected, the **Timeline** widget is always displayed as the second widget.*

*The display order of the widgets in this panel represents the order in which they will be displayed on the Pupil (or Student) Teacher View.*

# CAPITA

For details of SIMS training, see  
[www.hants.gov.uk/elearneteach](http://www.hants.gov.uk/elearneteach)

# Office 365 Email for Schools

**Office 365 Email for Schools is here. It's a free, cloud-based email solution to replace OWL and @mail that can be used by all members of staff and pupils.**

If you use Hotmail or Gmail at home then you'll see similarities. Office 365 Email works best when accessed through Internet Explorer 10 or the latest Firefox, Chrome or Safari browsers. Each email account can store 25Gb of email and attachments.

Rather than being a shared, central email service (like OWL and @mail), each establishment will have its own independent Office 365 Email system including its own email domain name.

Office 365 Email is linked to SIMS, which allows for automatic creation and deletion of accounts and management of passwords.

A simple web console has been developed exclusively for Hampshire schools to help manage tasks such as setting up shared accounts and managing banned words.

However a central address book of Hampshire County Council staff and staff in other schools will no longer be available. To replace this well-used feature of OWL, the email contacts for Hampshire County Council and staff in other schools can be accessed via a simple website; a second website will also allow emails to be composed and sent to wider groups, such as all admin officers and headteachers.

## How do I get it?

See our web pages for information about how to register your interest, the migration process and technical requirements:

**[www.hants.gov.uk/office365email](http://www.hants.gov.uk/office365email)**

Please fill in the web form to register your interest.

You will then be contacted by the project team and asked to complete a form to match your existing email accounts to the new ones and also to gather details of shared accounts.

The project team use this information to complete the pre-migration configuration for your site. When this has been completed successfully you will be contacted to schedule a date for migration.

You will be given a 'Getting Started Guide', which is a step-by-step guide written by our eLearn eTeach colleagues. The project also offers a telephone 'floor walk' to help build your confidence in getting started on your migration day.

The eLearn eTeach team also offers bespoke training tailored to your needs at their standard rate - please contact them directly for details:

**[elearneteach@hants.gov.uk](mailto:elearneteach@hants.gov.uk)**



**[www.hants.gov.uk/office365email](http://www.hants.gov.uk/office365email)**



# “What if Wikipedia and Pinterest had a baby?”

- Headline from educationnews.org

Well the answer, apparently, is the website and app **Learnist**.

Dubbed a ‘Pinterest for education’, Learnist is a social teaching application which lets teachers and learners post web content to a digital clipboard which can be shared with others.

*We are delighted to be trailing a selection of our earth and science content with Learnist and its growing base of fans from teachers to students and life-long learners.*

Jenny Fielding,  
Head of Digital Ventures at BBC Worldwide

The devil for many websites is in accumulating good content. Learnist has received investment from Discover Communications (owner of the Discovery Channel and TLC) and in April announced a tie-up with BBC Worldwide - so perhaps they’ve cracked that particular nut.

If you’re using Learnist in the classroom we’d love to hear about it - let us know via the Facebook page or by emailing [farehamwebteam@hants.gov.uk](mailto:farehamwebteam@hants.gov.uk).



Franca Gilbert, writing on the Emerging Ed Tech website, says:

Here is what I love about Learnist: it allows me to keep all of my relevant resources together in one place; it is accessible to me all the time and I can revisit any of the saved resources immediately; plus, I can share my 'page' with my students and they can easily access any of the sites that I send them to. They don't have to remember websites; I don't have to send them laundry lists of links.

It has made sharing resources easier and faster. You can even post your own content, which I have done with my YouTube channel, but not with files or pictures at this time.

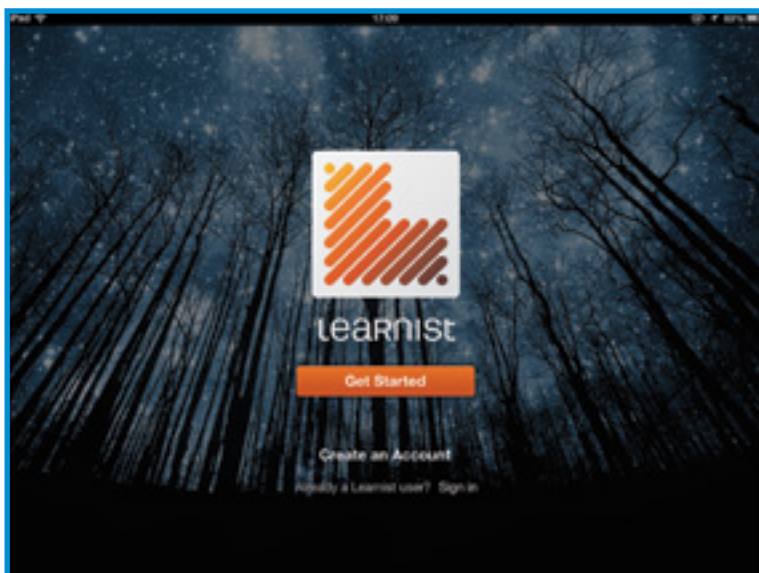
[www.emergingedtech.com](http://www.emergingedtech.com)

Time magazine's Best Websites of 2012 says:

Everybody knows enough about some topic - be it English, science, yoga or bourbon - to teach other people about it. And every topic is covered by content scattered around the Web.

The idea behind a new site called Learnist is to give everybody a spot to teach through curation. The site, which is also available as an app for iPhone and iPad, features user-created lessons that bring together Web pages, videos, Google Books ebooks and other items on a specific topic.

[techland.time.com/50-best-websites-2012](http://techland.time.com/50-best-websites-2012)



**We enjoy bringing you apps and websites that have potential in the classroom, but you should use appropriate caution when visiting or using external websites.**  
For more ideas, and to share your suggestions, visit

# Hosted School Service

## EdICTNet end of life

You will be aware that the EdICTNet service is now approaching the end of its life, and we have contacted all EdICTNet schools to advise them of this and of the need to look for alternatives. The catalyst for this announcement was Microsoft's withdrawal of support for Windows Server 2003 and Windows XP, upon which EdICTNet is built.

Feedback has shown concern in schools about the pace of change, so we have looked at alternatives which offer more time to decide.

Many schools have already opted for HSS, and we are working with them separately on installation. However, some schools remain undecided. We have worked at the options involving EdICTNet and can now offer two further choices:

- **HSS in principle** - A commitment that, subject to the business case working, you would like to migrate to HSS over a two year period. With this commitment we will be happy to support EdICTNet for a further two years, and work with you to look at ways to improve your infrastructure in readiness for your move to HSS. There will be no additional charge for this.
- **EdICTNet reasonable endeavours** - For those schools not able to take a decision at this stage, we are pleased to confirm that we will continue to support EdICTNet for a further two years until July 2015. However, this will be on a reasonable endeavours basis given Microsoft's withdrawal of support. There may be areas where you would wish to see investment made in modernising and updating components - this would be on a chargeable basis.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please speak to your account manager, or contact us via the IT Help Desk: [www.hants.gov.uk/contactit](http://www.hants.gov.uk/contactit)

## Remote Access upgrade

We have completed work to install a new set of Remote Access servers. All HSS schools were seamlessly migrated to the upgraded servers with no downtime and since the upgrade the service has not been offline. There are more developments planned for Remote Access this year and we'll publish details soon.

We have also upgraded the system that provides the secure route to your data from non-HPSN2 sites. This upgrade means that HSS Remote Access can now be used from a Mac; we are also trialling access from iPads and we hope to make this available for general release before too long.



## New website: [www.hants.gov.uk/hss](http://www.hants.gov.uk/hss)

We've given the HSS website an overhaul to explain its many features to schools which are interested in joining: [www.hants.gov.uk/hss](http://www.hants.gov.uk/hss)

Schools are always interested to hear from colleagues who are already using the service. If you would like to become a reference school, or contribute a case study (long or short) to the site, please speak to your HSS account manager.



# Keeping your servers healthy

One of the benefits of the Hosted School Service is that it takes away the need to worry about your IT. Due to its centralised nature, backups are automatically stored off site, and disaster recovery is already built in. If something happens to the server infrastructure within the school, all your important data is safely and securely stored at our data centre in Winchester. It is also replicated to our own disaster recovery site in Dorset County Council's data centre.

In addition the location of the data store can be changed, so if a server develops a problem we can switch you over to using the data store in Winchester. This means that instead of being without your data for days, perhaps even longer, we can provide access in a matter of hours via Remote Access.

However, we're not satisfied with this unparalleled level of redundancy in the system, and we've taken it a step further. Hampshire IT is now in the process of installing **Microsoft System Centre Operations Manager (SCOM)**.

SCOM will monitor every server within the HSS environment and report back on any that could be developing a hardware or software fault.

## What is SCOM?

- Microsoft System Centre Operations Manager (SCOM) 2012 is the new solution to monitor the health of all the servers across HSS in real-time.
- It uses Microsoft technology to alert Hampshire IT to possible issues before they happen.

- To begin with, SCOM will be monitoring basic system health information but over time we will extend this to more in-depth information.
- The system will generate warnings, errors and email alerts for our support teams allowing them to take any necessary action to stop problems occurring before you even notice there is an issue.

## Benefits

- SCOM will enable us to monitor the servers in schools at all times without the need to check anything manually.
- Hampshire IT staff will have access to a console that displays the system health for every server (more than four hundred) across HSS.
- If a threshold is breached the system can send an email alert to the relevant IT team for action.

## Timescale

- The infrastructure is already deployed; we are now starting to collect data from every site.
- Configuration of the solution is under way and we intend to be monitoring all servers soon. The final half of the summer term will be used to ensure that the configuration of the solution is optimised and we will be running the solution fully live from the beginning of the autumn term.

## What do schools have to do?

- Nothing. There is no downtime for installation - it is all set up silently in the background.

# Almost there ...

At the recent school improvement seminars we gave a briefing on the Ten Year Plan for Hampshire's children and schools. The plan aims to transform ICT provision across the county and within schools, to deliver better information and learning content to all users: learners, parents and educators.

The plan has been developed by children and staff from schools through a continuous consultation programme over the last eighteen months.

## So what's the story so far?

On your behalf Hampshire IT has been running a competitive selection process to choose an external ICT partner for the medium to long term.

We've been challenging the bidders to explain how they will help deliver our vision. Throughout this process of competitive dialogue we haven't just focused on potential technologies, we've also told them what you've told us: how you want to use ICT in the classroom and what you think are the most important things an ICT service should provide.

It's been encouraging that this conversation has developed to the point where potential partners understand our priorities and not simply what we want to buy. This means we are more likely to achieve better longer term value in terms of costs and the types of services we can provide in schools.

We are currently around four months into the seven month process to select our partner. Representatives from schools have been working with us every step of the way.

## What's the next stage?

From May to July 2013 we will be concluding the bidder dialogue and evaluation. This will cumulate in Hampshire County Council signing a contract with the selected partner in August.

## What will this all mean for schools?

The selection of a partner is only the beginning. It will undoubtedly mean changes to some systems and support processes. This will be necessary to provide the very best teaching, learning and school improvement opportunities. And the ongoing improvements which follow will also be guided by schools. We will develop more joined-up sharing of experiences and ideas across the entire Hampshire learning community.

It will also mean new features and products. Schools will be able to customise their experience and become more efficient in their use of data and ICT.

## Can I be involved?

Email us with your comments: [schoolsprojects@hants.gov.uk](mailto:schoolsprojects@hants.gov.uk)

[www.hants.gov.uk/ten-year-plan](http://www.hants.gov.uk/ten-year-plan)

