

# schoolzone *newsletter*

educational intelligence

## message from the editor..

From time to time, an educational issue arises which is so contentious that it divides not only the teaching profession, but the general public too. One that really got everyone talking was the recent strike over pay: with nearly a third of schools across England and Wales affected, this story has rumbled on in the press for quite some time subsequently. The story was featured in Schoolzone's recently-launched Education News service, and you can read our Schoolzone editor's view on it by going to: <http://www.schoolzone.co.uk/feeds/DisplayItem.asp?ItemID=1550>.

If you feel that the amount that you earn is not commensurate with your skills or experience, you may be considering the next step up the career ladder. It has always been one of Schoolzone's aims to support teachers' professional development, and our latest round of site development means that you can:

1. Search for new career opportunities using our job search engine
2. Use the 'events and training' functionality to find relevant training to develop key skills related to your career. (Our recently updated search engine allows you to search for courses by key stage, subject area, or geographical location)

3. Take part in Schoolzone research as one of our educational panelists, which keeps you up-to-date on key issues in research, offers you relevant networking opportunities with other teachers AND earns you additional money in the short-term. For instance, during April 2008, we paid teachers £3050 for helping us with our research projects:

- ▶ £1050 for participating in focus groups
- ▶ £1100 for survey prize draws.
- ▶ £900 for completing other work

4. Carry out pre-interview preparation using our Education News service, and download evaluations of the most up-to-date resources and schemes for your subject area.

Details of forthcoming projects are flagged up on the website, and on this Newsletter.

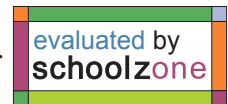
Could Schoolzone be doing more to support teachers' professional development? Do you disagree with our views on educational issues? If you would like to have your say, email me at [Melissa@schoolzone.co.uk](mailto:Melissa@schoolzone.co.uk).

## schoolzone evaluations - helping you spend your eLCs wisely

Baffled by e-learning choice? Trying to decide how to spend your eLCs? Schoolzone can help. Our evaluations are independent and written by classroom teachers. There are currently **847** independently-evaluated products on the Schoolzone website and available in our Digital Resource Guide (see [www.schoolzone.co.uk/resources/evaluations/getDRG.asp](http://www.schoolzone.co.uk/resources/evaluations/getDRG.asp) for how to order the hard copy edition).

Search here for your subject area and age-range: [www.schoolzone.co.uk/resources/evaluations/findeval.asp](http://www.schoolzone.co.uk/resources/evaluations/findeval.asp)

Recent additions include hardware evaluations and Interactive Whiteboard use is considered where appropriate.



## interact new and free

### Schoolzone 'try before you buy' service

Schoolzone gives registered users free access to subscription based content for you to try before you buy.

To get started log in and/or register at [www.schoolzone.co.uk/community/interact](http://www.schoolzone.co.uk/community/interact)

## Registered users!

Do you want to be kept informed of newly added free resources on the Schoolzone site which are suitable for your subject area/teaching level?

Once you are registered, you are always able to update your details.

This helps us to tailor our educational resources to meet your specific needs.

[www.schoolzone.co.uk/register/register.asp](http://www.schoolzone.co.uk/register/register.asp)



## free resources & opportunities

### Add your own comments to the UK's best educational search engine

Make the best even better. Our webguide of 50,000 education websites is now open to registered users to add your own comments about each entry. Just follow the link in the results then click on the Add a Review link at the top of the page.

### interact *schoolzone interact*

Schoolzone Interact currently has 2879 schools as registered users. The service allows full access to publishers' educational content on a 'try before you buy' basis. There is a 'new to Interact' section for those who would like an introduction to what is on offer and there is no commitment to buy at the end of the trial period.

To access this free digital content please go to:  
[www.schoolzone.co.uk/community/interact/login.asp](http://www.schoolzone.co.uk/community/interact/login.asp)

Schoolzone has recently changed the criteria for inclusion into Interact which means a wealth of new resources will be available through the system over the autumn term. Keep your eyes peeled and take advantage of this great 'try before you buy' feature.

#### Interact feedback:

In a pre-launch Interact focus group teachers stated:

*"This is a way to interface with bits of software that I am interested in and cut out the dross, I can find directly what I want."*

### New content in Schoolzone Interact

Access Citizenship resource Truetube for free  
KS3, KS4



A free, safe, web-based resource which uses real-life stories and issues to encourage teenagers to explore and debate the world of morality, ethics, politics and religion, and brings to life the subjects at the heart of English, Citizenship & PSHE and R.E. using the language of today's teenagers - short-form web-based video. The site is supported by a range of Teachers Resource Packs developed with partner "Immersive Education" and a cutting-edge online Edit Suite provided by partner "Forbidden Technologies". TrueTube also has detailed House Rules and Safety tips and all content is fully moderated - inappropriate use will not be tolerated.

### Have you accessed the Schoolzone Virtual Tours yet?

Virtual Tours are interactive demonstrations of educational content together with independent teacher voiceovers. This month's example is a History resource:



#### Germany 1918-1945 Dynamic Learning Network Edition - Hodder Education

Germany 1918-1945 Dynamic Learning Network Edition by Ben Walsh provides numerous resources, teaching strategies and assessment opportunities for Modern World History at GCSE level, and specifically one of the Modern World Study units of SHP courses on offer.

Check out the Virtual Tour area for further examples covering all subjects and key stages.  
<http://www.schoolzone.co.uk/resources/evaluations/virtualtours.asp>

### Don't forget ... to have your say

Last month we asked our website users the following question...



#### Have you experienced cyber-bullying?

Of the respondents, 208 voted YES and 149 said NO.

This month we ask:

#### Is the government doing enough to address your pupils' special education needs?

Please go to our homepage at [www.schoolzone.co.uk](http://www.schoolzone.co.uk) to cast your vote or email your comments to the Editor at [melissa@schoolzone.co.uk](mailto:melissa@schoolzone.co.uk).

Each month the Schoolzone website brings you details of events of interest to the education community:  
[www.schoolzone.co.uk/eventsandtraining/index.asp](http://www.schoolzone.co.uk/eventsandtraining/index.asp)

For example:

Moodle for Languages Teachers  
Dates: 22 May 2008 to 7 November 2008  
10:00:00-15:00:00

One day's training in the Moodle VLE with specific emphasis on its use in Modern Foreign Languages teaching offered every alternate Thursday from 10th January till 10 July - full details here: <http://vle.olchs.lancs.sch.uk/mod/book/view.php?id=61731&chapterid=211>

Email: [mco@olchs.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:mco@olchs.lancs.sch.uk) Telephone: 01772 326 900

Further details on the website.