

Newsletter

Latest news from ACS

CASE STUDY

Hawthorn Primary School

Hawthorn Primary School approached ACS as they had no real ICT provision within the classroom, mobile hardware was practically non-existent and they had a limited wireless network in place.

ACS commenced a full audit to assess and evaluate the existing set up and a budgeted plan was formulated to completely overhaul their existing ICT infrastructure.

ACS implemented a new wireless network to ensure that the school had good wireless signal strength to be able to cope with the new ICT hardware.

Hardware included new HP Pro books 4540s, HP 650 laptops, Apple 16GB iPad 2's and Fizz books as well as introducing the latest Windows 2012 server platform.

Diane Wakefield, Head Teacher, said "What ACS have done will definitely improve teaching and children's learning. At the end of the day this is what we are here for as teachers. We want children to be able to learn to the highest standard and I have no doubt that the children will benefit. It's the continuous proactive relationship that ACS has created, which puts them head and shoulders above anyone else."



Welcome back

Welcome back to school after the Summer Holidays, I hope most of you were able to have a break from the school office after another extremely busy school year. A new term and a new Academic Year begins again!

We are sad to report that Marie Allison, a prominent member of the SIMS Support

Team, has left to take up a position at a school and although she will be sadly missed we are happy that she has gained a position in her daughters' school, giving her more family time. We send our good wishes to Marie and thank her for the commitment she showed during her time at ACS.

New recruits

We are delighted to welcome two new members to the ACS SIMS & FMS Support Team.

Della Powell joins as a SIMS & FMS officer and Beth Oldfield as Customer Liaison Officer. Their addition ensures that the team has been significantly strengthened to provide first class support for all SIMS and FMS modules.

Della has a wealth of experience in both SIMS and FMS, and also has a good knowledge of the use of PS Financials software, having previously worked as Finance Officer for Shaw Wood Academy.

Beth Oldfield has also previously worked within the education sector and will be responsible for liaising with all schools communicating and coordinating all activities and best utilization of resources.



Della Powell



Beth Oldfield

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Techno Man Competition

We are launching a writing competition for key stages 1 and 2 for a chance to win an iPad Mini.

Techno Man wants to know what fun and games your pupils have been up to over the summer holidays. Simply challenge your pupils to write about their summer activities, add the pupils name and age to their work and post them into Kevin McEwen before Friday 10th October.



Interactive Technology

Any school that hasn't yet seen the very latest in interactive learning technology replacing old specification whiteboards, we are holding morning and afternoon demonstration sessions at 10:00am and 2:00pm on the 16th October with refreshments provided.

The sessions are completely free and no more than one hour but will take you



through screen technology that takes teaching to a whole new interactive level encouraging teamwork and collaboration in the classroom with iPad use.

Please contact James or Daniel our interactive technology experts for more information.

SIMS & FMS User Forum

Many schools attended a presentation on Wednesday 14th May 2014 at the ACS Offices, where valuable information about future developments in both SIMS and FMS was provided.

A representative from Capita came from Bedford to present a demonstration of SIMS InTouch and their new product, SIMS Agora, an online parent payment system which is fully integrated with SIMS.

A presentation was given about the ACS SIMS Support Team's commitment

to provide schools with a means to record the assessment attainment once levels are no longer used, whether your school is using the Sheffield Grid or an alternative solution.

As some school staff were not able to attend the Forum in May we have provided the opportunity for you to attend a re-run of the Forum on Thursday 25th September 2014.

Look out for the email inviting you to attend.

**25th
September**

CASE STUDY

Hilltop Primary School

Hilltop Primary approached ACS as they were having issues operating their current hardware with the infrastructure that they had on site. They only had a download speed of 2MB which meant that device loading times was really slow.

ACS commenced a full audit which involved testing the current hardware and assessing the existing infrastructure to determine the best way forward.

ACS installed an internet service which allows for a much faster connection than traditional broadband meaning that the school could deliver its ICT more effectively and efficiently.

Beryce Nixon Head Teacher said "Everything we have now is instantly useable. This is because we have had the correct training and support from ACS and we also have the right equipment for us to deliver a high standard of ICT. We don't have to go to ACS with suggestions; they are always pro-active and provide an impeccable service."



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Assessment without Levels

ACS SIMS Support Team staff have attended the meetings, held in the Summer Term, to take a look at the Sheffield solution to assessment without using levels. Whether your school has made the decision to use the Sheffield Grid or use an alternative solution ACS SIMS Support Team is committed to working with schools to provide the means in SIMS Assessment to record and analyse attainment and progress.

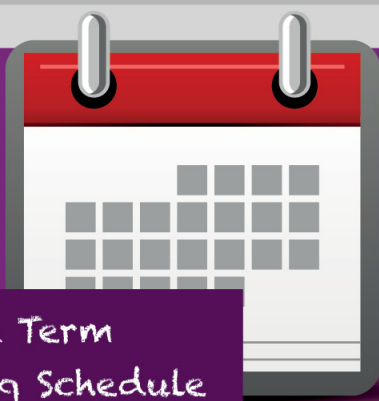
Marksheets, Tracking Grids, Aspect Analysis and Discover Graphs have already been created for Reading, Writing and Maths for all year groups for the Sheffield Data Entry Grid. If you have not been using SIMS Assessment to record and analyse assessment in your school and you would like a demonstration of the software in SIMS which has no cost implications please contact the ACS SIMS Support Team on 01302 381609.



School Workforce Census

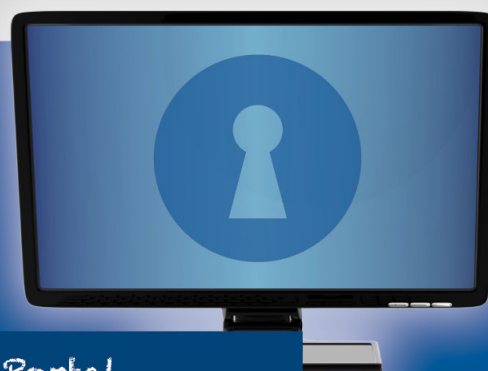
The School Workforce Census Day is Thursday 6th November 2014 and Privacy Notices should be issued to all new staff commencing employment at your school. Staff Data Collection Forms should be completed so all information can be recorded in Personnel in SIMS in readiness for School Workforce Census.

Service Terms containing the new salary amounts due to the 1% increase for Teachers, Teacher Upper, Leadership and Unqualified Teachers will be imported by the ACS SIMS Support Team in the next few weeks.



Autumn Term Training Schedule

The Autumn Term training schedule for SIMS, FMS and Microsoft Office courses is available on the ACS Portal and has been sent to schools via email. The extensive programme of courses is held in the modern and comfortable surroundings of the ACS Training Room, complimented by state of the art technology. Delegates are able to attend any course for any number of times, often learning more on a re-visit.



ACS Portal

If you have not already made yourself a member of the ACS Portal please contact the ACS SIMS & FMS Support Team on 01302 381609. Updated information regarding the changes to Special Educational Needs, Census documentation, Attendance, OFSTED, Exams, Financial information and Assessment are but a few of the types of information available to download from the site.



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New from ACS

5 year budget planning software

The next generation in school budget management

ACS are pleased to announce the launch of their new fully online web based Financial and Business Planning Software, which includes full Salary and Budget monitoring as well as a School Development Planning (SDP) module

ACS Budget planner online is a secure, web-based budget management system, incorporating budget planning and monitoring in one easy step. This unique software not only provides up to five year salary forecasting, budget formulation and a full reporting suite, but also full salary

and budget monitoring, allowing the user to confidently forecast a school's year-end financial position.

This complete online management system makes spreadsheet budgeting a thing of the past. Our 'Multi-school' feature allows for interaction between Schools, Federations, Clusters, Trusts and Local Authorities, and provides consolidated reporting.

The system accommodates Mainstream Schools, Academies, Independents and Free Schools by supporting all financial reporting parameters – CFR, GAG and an option

for schools to customise their own reporting format. The software has been developed to be flexible and is therefore compatible with all major finance systems and payroll files, and meets all Financial Management Standards.

Denise Young, FMS Finance Manager, said, "The new software is not only multi functional and flexible it is also compatible with all major finance systems. It really will be advantageous for every schools financial management."

Features & benefits:

- Manage reporting structure, pay scales, inflationary levels and pension rates
- Unlimited budget scenarios
- Fix agreed budgets
- Bespoke income calculators
- Salary and budget monitoring
- Multi-school functionality
- Devise and manage the School Development Plan

Are you still unsure about the new Computing curriculum?

ACS are running two types of workshop to get you up to speed. Based on the curriculum objectives, you will learn how the process of designing, implementing, reviewing and revising is firmly embedded in the software/apps being used.

Plus, the creative work from the more advanced coding projects, and the pupils' reflections on this, provide evidence of attainment with regard to the content of Curriculum 2014.

Workshop : Coding with iPads

Objectives:

Understand the new curriculum requirements and what it means to you as a teacher.

Share ideas to implement the curriculum requirements for KS1 & 2.

Consider a range of free software and apps that could be used to deliver Coding to pupils from EYFS to KS2 on the iPad.

Explore other web-based software that can be used on iPad and other mobile devices and learn how to make this instantly accessible from a home screen button.

Learn how to use the PurpleMash and Espresso Coding packages (nb. these packages are not free, but limited access can be provided for the purpose of this workshop) - both provide a structured and progressive SoW including lesson plans to allow for the development of Coding opportunities across school.

Course price: £185

Please contact Carol at ACS to reserve your place



DATES

for your diary

SIMS & FMS User Forum	Sept 25 2014
Autumn School Census	Oct 2 2014
School Workforce Census	Nov 6 2014
Spring School Census	Jan 15 2015
Summer School Census	May 21 2015
KS2 Tests	WK beg. May 11 2015

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