



Students to uncover mysteries of the Internet

Wednesday September 13th 2006

Students from Highlands College will visit the heart of the Island's communications network tomorrow to learn more about the inner workings of the Internet and mark the launch of the British Computer Society (BCS) Jersey Schools Website Competition.

The students will be given a tour of Jersey Telecom's Network Operations Centre (NOC) which controls the Island's communications infrastructure. They will learn how Jersey fits into the global communications network and gain an understanding of the enormous scale and scope of the Internet and Jersey's place within it.

The competition forms part of the BCS' 50th anniversary celebrations and its drive to work more closely with students to help nurture their IT skills, ready for use in the workplace. The students, who are all studying IT as part of their courses will be taking part in the BCS Jersey Schools Website Competition which is open to all local school pupils, regardless of their age.

The competition, which asks the students to design and create a website about a local subject is also supported by the States of Jersey Economic Development Department. It is intended that the competition will get students thinking about all the elements that make up e-commerce, a sector which has the potential to become one of the Island's major industries.

The competition is divided into three age categories: primary school, secondary school and A-level students. There are hi-tech prizes for the top three places in each category as well as a top of the range Canon scanner, photocopier and printing machine for the most successful school. The prizes, which are worth thousands of pounds, have been kindly donated by the PBS group.

Brett Sumner, Chairman of the Jersey BCS says, "This trip to Jersey Telecom's Network Operations Centre is a great way to launch the competition as it will help

the students understand the vast nature of the Internet and the way that it works. Also, the web design competition itself will hopefully develop their interest in e-commerce and encourage the next generation of professionals to develop skills in what could become a major industry for Jersey.”

Tim Ringsdore, Sales and Marketing Director at Jersey Telecom, which is also sponsoring the competition, expressed his delight at being able to host the tour and hopes that the students will come away with a deeper understanding of the way the Internet operates. “Due to the nature of our business, IT skills are essential to the operation of Jersey Telecom. With the advent of Voice over IP and broadband technologies, the Internet is becoming more important to our everyday lives. I hope that the students enjoy taking advantage of the wide creative brief the competition offers them and find that it helps them develop their computing skills. Competitions like this are a great way for Jersey’s students to rise to a challenge that would otherwise have seemed impossible to achieve.”

Stuart Philip, Curriculum Leader for ICT at Highlands College says, “The competition is the perfect opportunity for students to realise both their creative flair and technical abilities. By starting off with a visit to Jersey Telecom’s Network Operations Centre, they will learn even more about the way the Internet works and most importantly, will be able to contextualise their own place on the Internet.”

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Notes to Editors

- Journalists are invited to this event at 1pm in Jersey Telecom’s Minden Place building. Please contact Kirsten Morel to confirm attendance.
- Students who’d like to participate in the competition can get further information and register to enter at www.bcswebcomp.org.je.
- The BCS is a leading international organisation for IT professionals. This year marks its 50th anniversary. The Jersey branch was formed in 2003.
- The BCS has a world-wide membership of over 50,000 in over 100 countries – in Jersey the membership currently stands at 200.
- The IT profession represents an important and growing sector of the Island’s economy – providing critical support for a wide variety of businesses, including finance and law. The aim of the local branch is to raise awareness of the IT industry and demonstrate the benefits of professional standards.

- The competition prizes also include a trophy for the winning school to display.

For more information contact Kirsten Morel on 01534 735253 or 07797 753101, or email: kirsten@directinputassociates.com