

Oxfordshire Schools Web Competition 2007 Competitors' Pack

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Welcome!

Thank you for your interest in this competition and for filling out our sign-up form. We look forward to receiving your entry and the enjoyable process of judging all the sites. We enclose a pack with the details you need to enter the competition as well as some general information about the BCS.

If you do have any more questions after studying this pack, please don't hesitate to contact us via the competition website and we will try to answer your query.

We're lining up lots of exciting prizes:

- The BCS Oxfordshire Schools Computing Challenge silver cup
- High-spec. PC equipment for your school
- High-tech individual prizes: last year the budget for prizes was great; this year it's even better! Details will be revealed over the coming weeks
- and of course invitations to the grand prize-giving event, hosted at Shrivenham by Cranfield University, on **Wednesday 20 June 2007**

You can start designing and building your site as soon as you like. When it's finished, you'll be able to submit your entry at any time from **Monday, 19 March 2007** until the closing date of **Monday, 30 April 2007**

You can keep yourself up to date with the latest competition news by visiting our Web site at www.oxon.bcs.org/webcomp

Finally, please take a moment to familiarise yourself with the work of each of our sponsors by following their links from our competition pages. Without their support and generous donations this competition would not exist!

Good luck!!

Web Competition Committee
BCS Oxfordshire Branch

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Rules

The Competition is open to all schools in Oxfordshire, and will be run according to the following rules:

1. All work must have been done by students aided only by Parents or Teachers in the manner normally applied to all other school course work.
2. Your entry must be received by the closing date of 30 April, 2007.
3. Your entry must be sponsored by a member of staff from your school.
4. Your entry should be a set of web pages with a theme relevant to your school activities, together with a brief description of how the site was built (see Marking). It could be a complete web site or a self contained subset of a larger web site (for example your school's web site).
5. The web site does not need to have been created specially for this competition, but it should be original work created recently.
6. The site should illustrate the effective use of the Internet, but also show you are aware of the potential risks.
(For background, see: <http://schools.becta.org.uk/index.php?section=is>)
7. It must be possible to view all the pages in approximately 10 minutes.
8. You may submit the entry in the form of a URL linking to a live site or on CD. The submission form will be available online from 19 March, 2007.
9. Online sites should be available 24 hours a day and preferably should not be password protected.
10. The judges may use any of the popular browsers to view your site, specifically Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox, Netscape and Opera. You may, if you wish, include code which exploits features of a particular browser, but if you do, you should make sure that users of other browsers have an alternative way to access the same information.
11. If you know how to, you may enhance your site with javascript and Java applets, but you should not require users to install proprietary tools or plugins.
12. A school may submit several entries, but a school cannot win more than one prize in the same category.
13. The judges reserve the right to discuss with pupils involved in any entries to ensure the rules of the competition have been maintained fairly.
14. Other than the above, the judges will not enter into any communication with the entrant regarding a particular entry.
15. The judging panel is made up of volunteers from the BCS organising committee, and their decision is final.

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Marking Scheme

The judges will award marks under the headings shown below.

However, don't be put off by the marking scheme - basically all we are saying is that the site should look good, it should be easy to find your way around it, and the information should be of high quality, interesting and useful.

Design (20%)

- Neat and tidy pages with logical and consistent layout
- Good use of colour and layout with a small range of blending and nicely contrasting colours
- Text broken by lines, images and bullets
- Clear and legible text: dark on light or light on dark
- The design of the site, pages and graphics assist user comprehension

Credit will be given to innovative design rather than the use of code generating tools

Content (20%)

- The pages engage and hold the users' attention and interest
- Your own words - not copied and pasted from another site
- Information about who has written the pages
- Accurate, complete, up to date and unbiased information
- A theme relevant to your school activities (See: section on Theme)
- Identified sources of information with links back to sites used for research if appropriate
- Correct spelling and grammar

Audience Awareness (10%)

- An introduction to the site and its intended audience, or a mission statement (not necessarily on the home page)
- Content and language appropriate for the users
- Attention to needs of different kinds of users, including those with slow phone lines or sight impairment

Functionality (20%)

- Easy navigation

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- Consistent use of menus, buttons, and other icons
- Alternative routes through the material
- No broken links
- A site map and/or "breadcrumbs" if appropriate
- Elements working as expected - for example any visual, audio and interactive features
- An awareness of the security and safety issues

Something extra or special (20%)

- Evidence of creativity or flair, for example, your own:
 - Interactivity - working e-mail or other feedback option
 - Animations
 - Digital photographs
 - Encouragement for users to find answers to questions

Description (10%)

- A write-up of how you built your web site. Explain the reasons for the design you chose, the tools you used, and any interesting challenges that you faced. Describe the roles of each team member (artist, writer, HTML expert etc.).
- Describe how the site links in with your school or community activities
- Explain what you have done to make the site usable and how you checked its usability

You may submit the description on paper or (preferably) in pages on the web site itself.

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Theme

This year, you are strongly encouraged to build your competition entry with a theme relevant to your school activities.

This gives a very “open ended scope”, but some examples might include:

- Some sort of online community, such as a club site, or area of shared interest
- A community site possibly linking school with external activities, e.g recycling
- A revision or support site associated with school work
- A science project
- Building your wild area
- Etc.

However, we are sure you will be able to be much more creative.

The judges will be looking for high quality content, supported by team working, imagination, design flair and innovative use of web technology.

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How to Submit your Entry

1. Over the internet

Where possible, competition entries should be submitted as a link to a live web site. The competition entry website will need to be publicly available on the Internet, preferably at all times, and may be a sub section of your school's website.

To submit your entry as an Internet site, please complete the submission form* on the competition web site. Go to [//www.oxon.bcs.org/webcomp](http://www.oxon.bcs.org/webcomp) and go to the My Team area to sign up. (If your supporting information is not online as part of your website, then this can be e-mailed as a text document. Details of where to send this document and acceptable formats will be included on the website)

2. By post on CD

If you cannot make your competition entry available via the Internet, then you may send your entry by post.

To submit your entry by post, complete the submission form* found in the My Team area of the competition web site, and click the print button. The address to post your entry will be included on the printout. CD entries must be readable on a Microsoft Windows computer, and the entry should be directly accessible without need of other software (such as WinZip).

* The submission form will accept entries from 19 March 2007 until 30 April 2007.

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