

Making the Most of BETT

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Overview

Exhibitions are a great way of looking at new technologies, exploring pedagogical approaches and planning for the future. Unfortunately, they can also be mind-blowing, and leave you more confused than informed. With a little preparation, you can really make the most of an exhibition, and leave feeling focussed and invigorated.

We hope that this advice sheet will help you plan for, and really gain from your time at BETT. www.bettshow.co.uk

Before you go....

- Try to arrange to go with someone else. You will be able to cover more ground, and more crucially discuss new technologies to REALLY assess their value. Second opinions from someone you know and respect will help you make sense of the things you see.
- Find out your potential budget before you go. This will help you to identify what is within your reach, and which things are not worth looking at quite yet.
- Obtain a seminar list and book crucial ones well in advance.
The week before BETT, the Times Educational Supplement publishes a 'map' of all stands at BETT. Make sure you obtain a copy.
- Highlight on the TES plan the stalls you wish to look at. Try to roughly plan a time frame for your visit (When will you lunch? When are your seminars?) and a route through the exhibition. Without this, you may get side-tracked or lost, and miss the stalls/displays which could have been most useful.
- Highlight stands on the plan in different colours according to how much interest you have in them. This way, should you finish your 'route' early, you will be able to move straight on to stands which are useful.

When you are there....

- Don't forget the floorplan!
- Take a notepad, you **will** forget finer details of the things you see. Make notes so that you can make sense of your vague memories when you are back in school.
- Don't forget your seminars! They really will be thought-provoking.
- Collect as many freebies as possible!
- Take regular breaks to think about what you have seen, and to review your plan for the day. You may see things at the exhibition will change the way you see ICT developing in your school.
- Show your budget when you talk to salespeople – they may be willing to bend a little!

On your return....

- Do ensure that you are given time (10 mins even) to disseminate the day to other staff. If there is no improvement to the vision for ICT in your school, will others perceive your visit as a waste of resources? You may even want to share some of your freebies!!
- Look at your ICT development plan – does this need revisiting in the light of your new vision?
- Talk to a budget holder about ICT if there is something you saw which could improve ICT in your school. Your notepad may help you be persuasive enough to release funds!
- Book for next year!