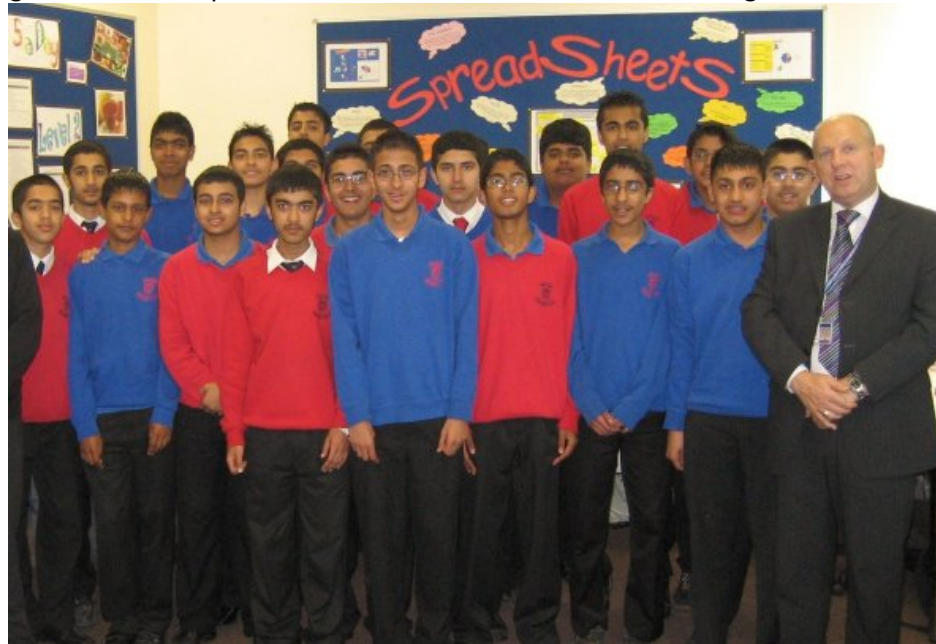


First QCA accredited Awards

Proud students at Pleckgate school are the first to gain QCA accredited Gold Awards. The school gains valuable points which count towards national league tables.



[1]

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Ingots come to Pleckgate!

In September 2006 an exciting new qualification arrived at Pleckgate High School in Blackburn. The vocational qualification known by the acronym Ingots (International Grades in Office Technology) gives students the opportunity to use ICT to help the community, and gain a level 2 qualification in the process. Here a group of students report on their Ingots project.

'We chose a project that would not only benefit the local community but also a greater, global audience, and we wanted the project to reflect the aims of Pleckgate School as a maths and computing college. After many hours of discussion we decided to develop an easy-to-use guide to building a computer for people with only basic or limited IT knowledge.

Each member of our group is also studying for the full GCSE in ICT and so has a high level of interest in

computers and how they operate. We all identified a lack of good, easy-to-use guides on building and configuring computer systems, especially in electronic format, for enthusiasts to follow.

None of our group has ever been in a position to identify and purchase the components to construct a computer system, let alone build one, so our first task was to persuade the ICT subject leader and technical staff to become involved in our project. We wanted to video the building of a suitable system, with commentary, and then create a version in pdf format to either view electronically or print out.

Once convinced of our plan, the ICT department set about purchasing components for a top of the range computer system for us. Thorough research identified the best available for our budget and soon the parts started to arrive – the highlight was a window case with blue LEDs to showcase the build. We then met with the ICT technical support team and scheduled a time for the demonstration to take place. One week later, we met in the library with other year 11 students for the build demonstration. This not only showed us how such a system

should be constructed but also how to install a new operating system. Questions were fired at the technical team, with the whole sequence being videoed by our project group.

The essence of Ingots is to make best use of open source software and encourage the recycling of computer hardware. With this in mind, the group met the following week with the ICT technical team to recycle old departmental hardware and show that computers have a life beyond what is usually expected. At last, we got our hands on some actual machines! With screwdrivers in hand we fitted the motherboard into the case processor, memory, graphics and network card. The stress of waiting to find out if it worked was nearly unbearable.

With all evidence now in place, editing of the video and digital image files is our next task followed by the final construction of our user manual. Watch this space!

To find out more about the project, contact Margaret Evans, subject leader for ICT at: pleckgate@blackburn.gov.uk



First QCA accredited Awards

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[2]

Source URL: <https://theingots.org/community/news/2007/pleckgate>

Links

[1] <http://theingots.org/community/sites/default/files/active/0/pleckgate.jpg>

[2] <https://theingots.org/community/sites/default/files/active/0/Pleckgate2.jpg>