

## Curriculum Computing & ICT News SEPTEMBER 2015

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**Greetings. Email me if you want to change who receives this Newsletter.**

Mark Robinson

### **LGfL Broadband: New contract offer.**

When LGfL partnered up with Virgin Media all London schools signed a 5 year contract. Over those 5 years the market for broadband has obviously changed, and LGfL has been aware for some time that, for a small number of schools (depending on pupil numbers & bandwidth), the market is becoming more competitive. Following protracted negotiations over summer 2015, LGfL & Virgin Media will soon announce a new contract offer, which will provide a better, faster, cheaper service for all schools.

LGfL will be offering all schools a new 5 year contract (GOOD) which will deliver a significant increase in bandwidth (GOOD), while the annual price will drop by a significant amount (GOOD). Schools showing interest in this will receive the increase in bandwidth between now and March 2016, **ahead** of new contract, (GOOD). , which will come in to effect, for most schools, during 2016 & for some, later

LGfL news will be out soon and they will contact each individual school over coming months to clarify the details of the new contract for your school.

These details will depend on:

- The expiry date of your current contract
- Your current bandwidth & the upgrade capacity of on-site equipment (some schools will be getting new router / firewall)
- Number of pupils on roll

This demonstrates the advantage of LGfL's ability to aggregate procurement: LGfL represents 2700 schools and can therefore negotiate & leverage a much better deal than ONE school can. Beware of offers from companies such as Schools Broadband, RM, EXA, etc.

If you ARE stubbornly still tempted to waste your time looking elsewhere, please bear in mind that offers on the market tend to offer a **contended** service (you **share** bandwidth with others). This rarely compares with uncontended LGfL fibre (guaranteed bandwidth). LGfL bundles many services in to the overall contract, so if considering another supplier, you would need to source and factor in costs for:

- web filtering
- anti-virus (Cost approx £2000 - £3000+ pa)
- staff email (LGfL StaffMail)
- student email (LondonMail2 incorporating Office 365)

Be aware that if switching from LGfL, you would also lose access to :

- masses of premium online resources from over 70 different educational content suppliers (These resources cover all subject areas from EYFS to KS4+)
- awarding winning "**Just2Easy**" online software incorporating semi-auto school blogsite
- online video hosting & streaming service (LGfL VideoCentral)
- podcasting service
- 500GB secure online cloud storage (myDrive)
- secure file transfer between all LGfL USO account holders
- QR code log in for younger pupils using tablets
  
- AND . . . if you use VOIP telephony, it quite probably wouldn't work

**Easiest decision you ever need to make!**