

Virtual Image News

Issue 4 December 2005

Welcome to your fourth Virtual Image newsletter. In response to feedback from our customers, we began sending out newsletters back in March and we hope you are finding them useful and informative. Each of the newsletters contains ideas that you can use in the classroom, articles on issues of current interest and the opportunity to win some of our market-leading software.

This issue looks at the following topics:

1. BETT
2. Looking for Science Authors
3. NRICH
4. What's New
5. Competition
6. Website Update
7. The Future – Maths Scheme on CD-ROM

We hope you like it!

1. BETT

BETT is almost here again! We are looking forward to seeing everyone again in January. BETT 2006 is open from Wednesday 11th January to Saturday 14th January. We will be there on stand SW4 in the Software Village, which is now upstairs. Come along and try out our new software.

Full details about the event can be found on the BETT 2006 website at:
www.bettshow.co.uk/

2. Looking for Science Authors

During the past year we have released seven new science CD-ROMs and we have another four in the pipeline. We plan to develop much more science software over the next few years. Recent collaborations with science teachers have proved to be very successful. We are looking to build up new relationships in order to produce a new range of science CD-ROMs. If you would like to be involved, or know someone else who would, please don't hesitate to e-mail at:
nick@virtualimage.co.uk.

3. NRICH

Virtual Image and NRICH have teamed up to produce an innovative CD-ROM called **Exploring Squares**, that is described below in the "What's New" section.

Liz Pumfrey has provided us with the following background information about NRICH.

NRICH started in 1996 and is a joint project with the Faculties of Education and Mathematics at the University of Cambridge. NRICH is now part of the award-winning Millennium Mathematics Project (MMP), which was set up in 1999, and is based in the Centre for Mathematical Sciences at the University. (Last month MMP was awarded the Queen's Anniversary Prize – more details are available at: <http://mmp.maths.org/news/first.html>.)

The NRICH Project is the largest of the programmes within MMP. It is led by Jennifer Piggott and encompasses the following activities:

- Development of the main NRICH website, which publishes free mathematics enrichment resources for pupils of all ages, including discussion forums and a mathematics thesaurus.
- Associated face-to-face outreach activity running Continuing Professional Development courses for teachers and workshops for pupils.
- Extra-curricular master classes throughout the UK.
- Primary mathematics lectures at the Royal Institution, London.

The NRICH website is republished with new content every month. Problems are carefully chosen and prepared by the editorial team, with supporting articles, games and other resources that are designed to support and complement the problems. Each month a number of pupils' solutions are chosen for publication. All the material published in the past is archived and accessible using the search facilities on the site.

The community section of the NRICH website contains discussion boards where pupils, teachers and interested adults can ask mathematical questions and discuss mathematical issues that are of interest to them.

Join the thousands of visitors that NRICH receive every day and take a look for yourself at: www.nrich.maths.org.

4. What's New

- **New Demo CD-ROM** - We have just received 10,000 copies of our new demo CD-ROM. It includes demo versions of 59 of our CD-ROMs, including all this year's new releases. To obtain a FREE copy of the demo CD-ROM, just e-mail your postal address to us at: jules@virtualimage.co.uk
- **Great Mathematicians** has been joined by two new titles: **Great Scientists** and **Great Inventors**, which have also been developed with John Davis.

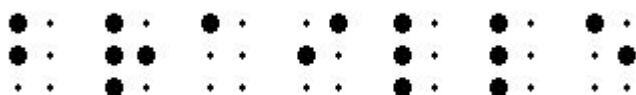
This trio of titles is suitable for Key Stages 2 and 3 or Levels B-D in the Scottish Curriculum. They are designed to stimulate interest in Maths and Science by presenting these subjects in a historical context.

- We are continuing to develop the Science Lesson Starters series of CD-ROMs. **Biology Year 10 Lesson Starters** is now available. The CD-ROM has been written by Debbie Nightingale following the success of her earlier disks. Sam Holyman has also completed her second CD-ROM with us: **Chemistry Year 10 Lesson Starters**. These CD-ROMs are soon to be accompanied by **Physics Year 10 Lesson Starters** and three Year 11 Lesson Starters disks. All of which should be available from the start of 2006.
- Virtual Image and NRICH have been working closely together to produce an innovative CD-ROM called **Exploring Squares**. The software is built around a collection of 25 mathematical posters on the theme of “squares”. Each poster is presented with Teachers’ Notes and a series of questions designed to generate discussions in the classroom. The posters are ideal for lesson starters and will help to develop investigative and problem-solving skills. The CD-ROM is designed for Key Stages 2 and 3 or Scottish Curriculum Levels B-D.
- We have developed two new History CD-ROMs: **Great Victorians** and **Great Ancient Greeks**. These CD-ROMs have been written by Prof. Joy Palmer, who is Pro-Vice Chancellor of Durham University. The CD-ROMs are designed for Key Stages 2 and 3 or Scottish Curriculum Levels B-D.

5. Competition

Each issue of the Virtual Image Newsletter will offer you the chance to win some of our market-leading software.

Our recently released CD-ROM **Great Inventors** includes a section about Louis Braille who invented the Braille cipher that has been adopted universally as the means to produce text for blind people. The following word is written in Braille. What is the word?



When you have solved this problem, email: jules@virtualimage.co.uk

The winner will be selected from the correct entries that we receive by 31st December 2005 and will receive a Virtual Image CD-ROM of their choice.

6. Website Update

It is now possible to buy the **Nubble!** CD-ROM directly from the Virtual Image website. The CD-ROM is available with a single user licence for just £17.50 including VAT and postage and packing.

The Code Book on CD-ROM can also be purchased directly from the website for the amazing price of £6.28.

We are continuing to update our website. Further CD-ROMs will be offered for purchase from the website in the near future. In the longer term, the entire Virtual Image website is due to be replaced by an entirely new fully interactive website over the next six months.

7. The Future – Maths Scheme on CD-ROM

Virtual Image is planning a new series of Key Stage 3 CD-ROMs based on the National Numeracy Strategy's Framework for teaching mathematics. The CD-ROMs will be developed with David Benjamin, Head of Mathematics, and Justin Dodd, Head of ICT, at the Norton Knatchbull School. The software will be designed for use with an interactive whiteboard and will constitute an entire electronic Maths Scheme. Each CD-ROM will contain material suitable for students at three different levels: standard, extension and support.

For each part of the framework, the software will begin with an objective, a lesson starter and the keywords. This will be followed by a sequence of examples that the teacher and pupils can work through on the interactive whiteboard using the drawing facilities contained in the software. The CD-ROMs will include support resources of worksheets for use in the classroom and for homework.

The CD-ROMs will be released in stages, beginning with Year 7 before September 2006.

We would be interest to hear your views about the development of an entire Maths Scheme on CD-ROM. Would an electronic Maths Scheme suit your teaching methods? The price for a CD-ROM based Maths Scheme is likely to be much lower than the cost of a text book based Maths Scheme. Would this be an important factor when you consider updating the Maths Scheme that you use? E-mail your thoughts to us at: david@virtualimage.co.uk.

Have a Happy Christmas! We will look forward to seeing you at BETT.

Please do not reply to this email as it will not reach us. Please email jules@virtualimage.co.uk or go via the website www.virtualimage.co.uk and

click the contact button.

Virtual Image News is produced by Virtual Image Publishing Limited. You have received this email as a member of our mailing list. If you would like to unsubscribe from this newsletter, send an email to jules@virtualimage.co.uk stating that you would like to be removed from the mailing list.

Virtual Image publishes software to support the teaching and learning of mathematics, biology, chemistry, physics, geography, history, literacy and French. For general enquiries about the software please visit www.virtualimage.co.uk or contact us on 0161 480 1915.