

Rotherham's Connected Community

A vision for the future of the
Rotherham Grid for Learning

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Our Vision

We're Thinking Differently

- ☑ Learners **are** accessing information in ways they didn't before...**Internet, Interactive Digital Television, Interactive Media...**
- ☑ Learners **are** accessing people in ways they couldn't before...**Chat Rooms, Mobile Texting, Email, Video Phones...**
- ☑ Learners **are** empowered to do what they couldn't do before...**Skills, Accessibility, Confidence, Technological Capability...**

But That's Not All...

- ☑ Schools **will** remain at the heart of the learning process for children and adults for the foreseeable future. Although ICT allows pupils, in theory, to learn from anywhere at any time, they still need the support of a regular base and a strong community. However the boundaries between schools and other learning places will be less clear cut and the learning arena of the future will become a resource for the whole community.

Schools of the Future: Designs for Learning Communities

Our Vision

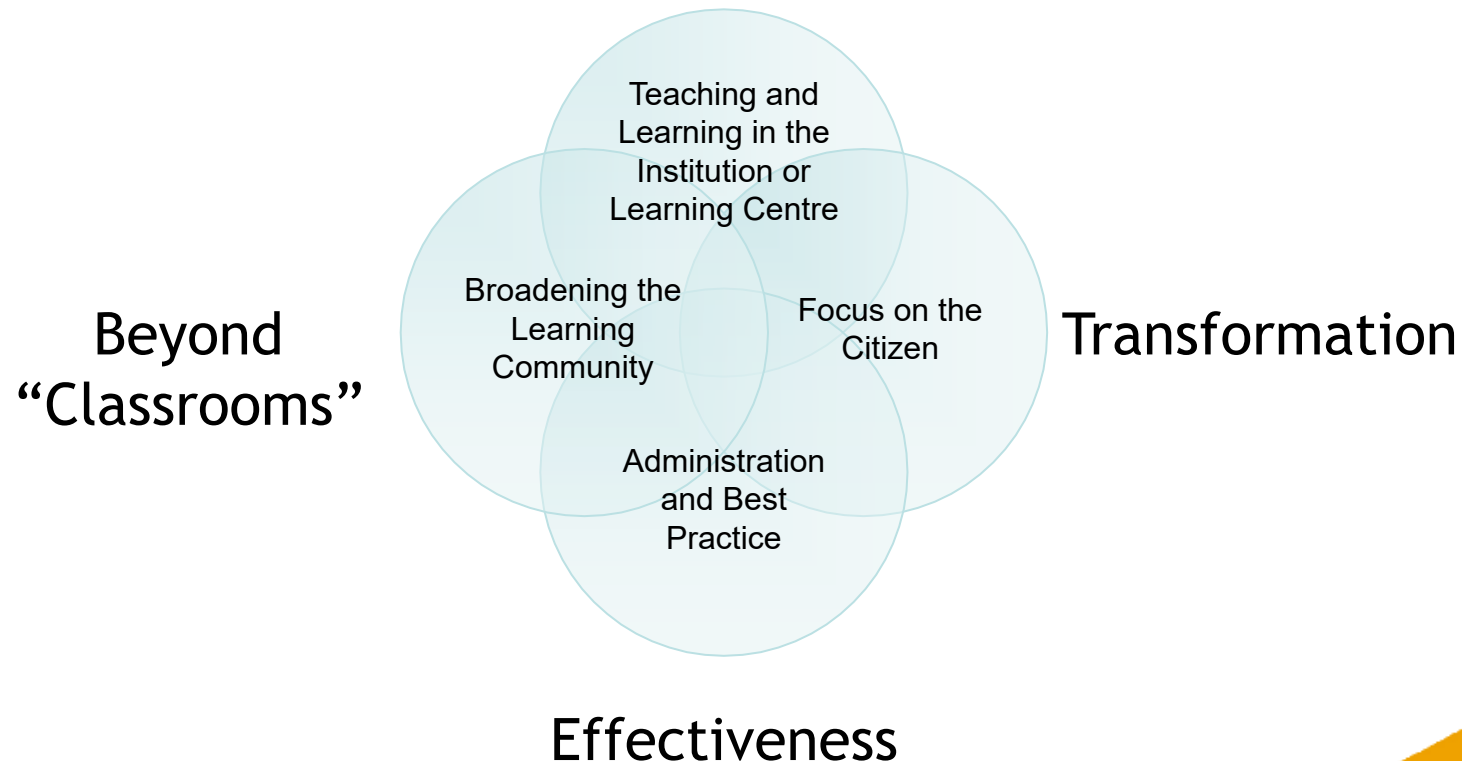
Learning Aims

- ❑ Give people the power to control their learning process
- ❑ Engage partners in the transformation
- ❑ Allow the development of a technological infrastructure that challenges present thinking in order to amplify intellectual capabilities.
- ❑ Raise participation in learning and raise attainment
- ❑ Encourage pioneering ways of learning and teaching
- ❑ Deliver the tools that reflect demands of learners to enable them to use ICT for research

Our Vision

A Connected Community for Rotherham

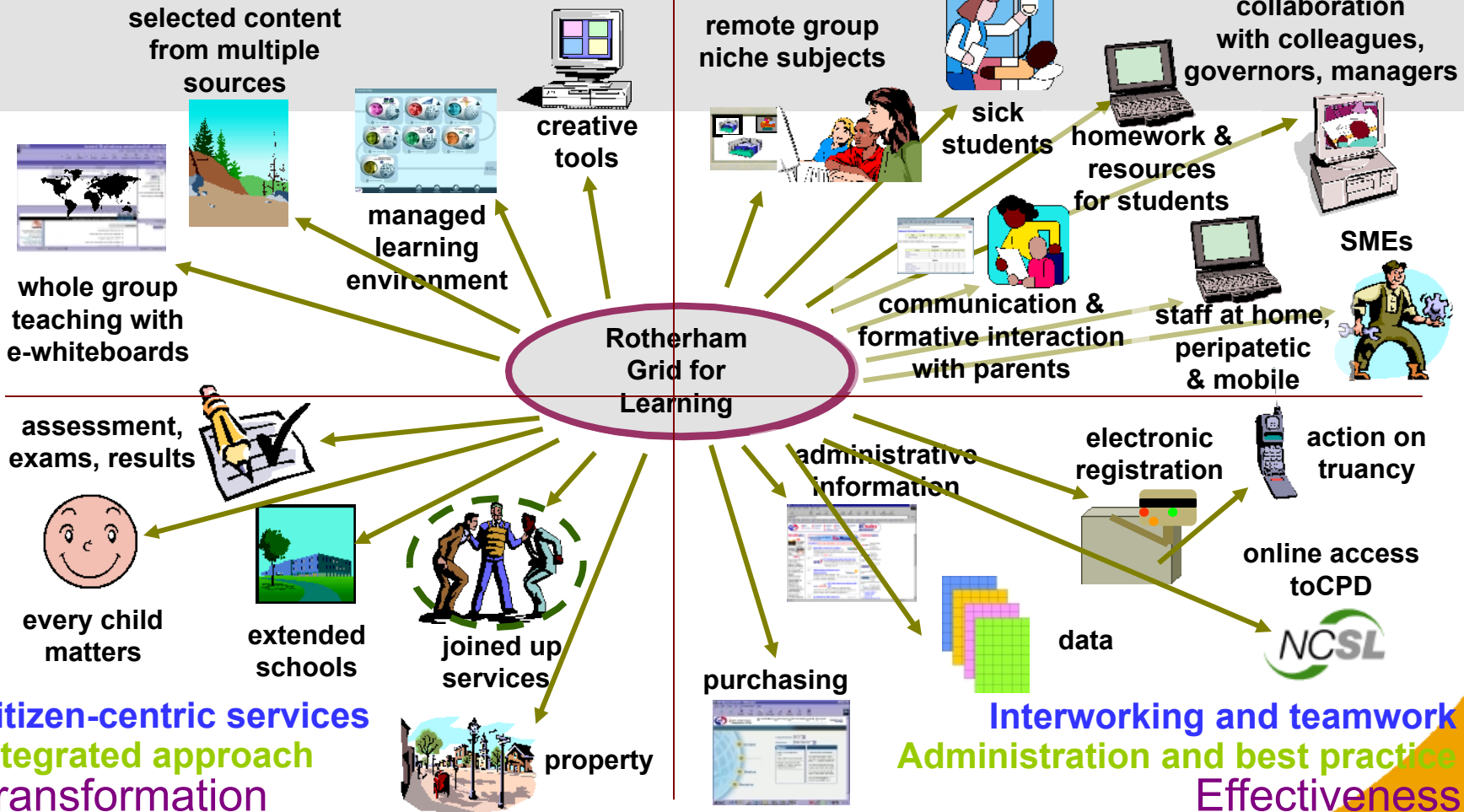
The Traditional Place of Learning



The connected community in Rotherham? ... a vision

The traditional place of learning
 Evolving the learning environment
 Supporting professionals with new tools

Beyond the "classroom"
 Broadening the learning community
 Inclusion and lifestyle



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Our Starting Point

Identifying Partners to help us make an impact on:

- Inclusion and exclusion
- Provision of a productive learning environment
- Community learning and skills development
- Encouragement of life long learning
- Out of hours learning
- Enhancing economic regeneration
- Raising of attainment and standards

Beyond
“Classrooms”

Broadening
the Learning
Community

Why Do We need Partners?

- To extend our reach into communities
- To build on and complement existing ICT investments and expertise
- To offer opportunity for new styles of learning
- To integrate multi-departmental approaches
- To facilitate parental/mentor engagement
- To broaden the pool of contributors to raising standards and improving learning

Our Progress

Step One - Rotherham Schools join the Grid

- ✓ Offered to all Rotherham schools; all but 5 have subscribed
- ✓ Central infrastructure built, switch on: 30/09/04
- ✓ All BT technical surveys undertaken and 50% of the implementation planning completed
- ✓ 6 schools have had their installations completed by RBT (as at 7/9/04)
- ✓ All 121 subscribing schools will be connected by 15th December 2004

Step Two - Widening the reach of the Grid

- ✓ Through Rotherham Learning Partnership a technical feasibility study is underway to determine the potential for expansion to Colleges, FE, Businesses, Training providers and Communities
- ✓ Report to the Partnership in November will contain recommendations for a pilot in one or more of these areas
- ✓ £1m RMBC single pot secured over next 4 years to support the expansion of the Grid
- ✓ Our vision is for 50 separate Rotherham organisations/enterprises/agencies to be using the Grid, by 2007

Our Progress

Step Three - Services over the Grid

- ☑ South Yorkshire e-Learning project supporting 24 Rotherham schools to develop their own content
- ☑ Purchase of Rotherham-wide licences for
 - ☑ Fanfiction
 - ☑ Thinkquest
 - ☑ Espresso
 - ☑ Pathe News
 - ☑ BBC.co.uk
- ☑ Discussions with RBT on the potential for a ‘managed service’ approach to future services over the Grid
- ☑ New Service Level Agreement being drawn up between RMBC and RBT covering RGfL
- ☑ Sharing our vision with our Partners, and potential partners to understand the scope and range of future service requirements

What's in it For Subscribers?

- ❑ RGfL conforms to BECTA guidelines in terms of connectivity, speed etc
- ❑ Secure high speed Internet connectivity that is monitored and filtered
- ❑ A web site for every school
- ❑ High availability of email (resilient services)
- ❑ Microsoft Outlook email for every pupil and teacher (browser based)
- ❑ Access from home and libraries to email accounts
- ❑ Connection to the Yorkshire and Humberside Grid for Learning
- ❑ Actively updated industry strength Virus protection
- ❑ Secure access to the Council's administration system
- ❑ Access to council systems for teachers from home (assumes Internet connection)
- ❑ The RGfL design has been devised in conjunction with Microsoft and will be supported by Microsoft engineers

Is it affordable?

Transferable costs:

- Administrative connection
- Virus protection
- Firewall
- Email access for children, staff or employees
- Internet access
- Cache server
- Website
- Management
- Filtering

So...

let's take a look at this Vision in action ...