

# Schools are ICT champions



**PRESENTATION:** The ICT champion launch at Dukinfield Town Hall.

SCHOOLS have been offered a hi-tech package of goodies as part of a unique initiative to boost inclusive education.

The Tameside ICT champions for inclusion programme, launched at Dukinfield Town Hall last week, offered local primary and secondary schools the chance to take the lead in establishing inclusive principles to meet the needs and enhance the learning of all pupils.

Ian Smith is Tameside's executive director for Children's and Young People's Services.

He said this week: "Following on from the launch of the Inclusive Schools' Award last year, we are now really excited that 25 of our primary and secondary schools have taken up the challenge of promoting more effective inclusive practice through the use of ICT across their schools, and been accepted onto the new Tameside ICT Champions for Inclusion programme."

the-art ICT hardware, including lap top computers, digital cameras, microphones and headphones, and software to help them take a multi-sensory approach to teaching and meet pupils' personalised needs.

Staff also took part in a number of training courses to help plan for the individual needs of their pupils.

Mr Smith added: "This particular initiative is focusing on the fantastic role that ICT can play in both helping particular students to better access the curriculum, and to provide the means to make the curriculum more exciting for the whole class.

"The case studies that will be generated from this pilot programme will go onto our website, and become an important resource from which all our schools can find benefits for their own practice."

It is hoped the programme, the first of its kind nationally, will be rolled out to all Tameside schools and educational settings



**AWARDS:** Winners are presented with their cheques from Herriots.

**HERRIOTS Design & Build Ltd** of Riverside House, Dukinfield, are getting involved and supporting their local schools by sponsoring the second annual ICT Special Educational Needs awards for Tameside Schools.

There are two separate awards; £1000 for a primary school and £1000 for a secondary School.

The awards are given to schools that demonstrate best usage of ICT for Special Educational Needs within an academic year.

Thirteen schools participated in the presentations in July 2007 and the winners, which received their prize on Tuesday at Herriot's offices in Dukinfield, were:

- St Damians Catholic Science College – for the Secondary School Award
- St Raphael's Catholic – for the Primary School Award.

The panel of judges consisted of:

- Nick Caws Principal Psychologist from TMBC
- Claire Bibby Head of Inclusion Services from TMBC
- Father Michael Flemming from St Joseph's Church Mossley
- Kath Shelmerdine Governor from Hartshead Sports College
- Cath Newton Friends of St Damian's
- Nicola Gravener from Herriots Design & Build

Managing Director for Herriots, David Burke said: "It gives me great pleasure by getting involved within the local community and rewarding schools for their hard work over the year, I can't wait to see the children's faces on the day they receive their prize."

Schools wanting to get involved in next years awards can refer to the website for details: [www.senict.co.uk](http://www.senict.co.uk) or emailing [kathleen.pearson@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:kathleen.pearson@tameside.gov.uk)