

Becta an early casualty of cuts

So Becta is to be one of the first victims of the cuts. Last year I wrote that the Tories were interested in boxes and wires and the Labour Party in the uses of technology. How wrong I was! The Conservatives seem technophobic and are set to cut all spending on IT and not just in education. Some of the key figures in the world of ICT and education such as Professor Stephen Heppell believe that there is a groundswell of informed opinion that will inspire and sustain educators at the difficult time. 'Many wise and helpful bloggers and podders and tweeters are already providing a mass of inspiration and effective practice for others.' I am not so sure. If money is not the driving force, teachers will find other things to do with their time rather than keep up to date with technology developments and new software opportunities.

The last government was behind the Home Access Project, a wonderful way of providing access to the internet and e-government for the poorest families.. My article about the demise of the Home Access Project and the impact on young people with severe disabilities can be accessed from [Merlin John Online](#)

If push comes to shove, I think there are 3 key things the government needs to preserve

- e-safety – keeping children safe online and reducing the power of the predators to get at vulnerable young people
- narrowing the digital divide – making sure that the smooth faced boys from Eton aren't the only ones with E-power
- making a commitment that ICT for children with disabilities is the number one priority

If we lose any one of these, then it is back to the dark ages.