



Give an
HOUR
IN
Bracknell

Adult Learning

Open Learning Centres



Recognising how IT has changed society and the way we live our lives, Bracknell Forest Council is keen to make sure that nobody is excluded from the digital revolution and that everybody has the opportunity to learn all about 'new age technology.'

To achieve this, free or low cost introductory computer courses for adults are provided at its two UK Online centres in Bracknell and Sandhurst, where they can learn to use email, the internet, word processing and other useful computer applications.

There are three IT suites, two at Bracknell Open Learning Centre and one at Sandhurst Open Learning Centre. These suites are fully equipped with PCs, interactive whiteboards and projectors. All PCs have full internet access, Microsoft Office, Photoshop and other packages. There are also scanners and printers.

All areas of the centres are fully accessible.

A selection of the types of IT courses on offer include:

- First Time on a Computer
- Communicating Online
- Photoshop
- Digital Cameras
- Word
- Excel
- PowerPoint
- Family History introduction and on-line search

The First Time on a Computer course is a 10-hour course, which is free of charge. Adults can learn to use email to contact friends and relatives or 'surf' the internet to discover the wealth of information and facilities available online. The other courses are charged at a nominal price.

Each Friday the ICT suite at Bracknell is available for adults to book a slot to practise the skills they have learnt or use the internet access provided.

The centres also provide the opportunity for family learning, where parents and children learn together. Parents can learn how to support their child's learning at school and brush up their own skills at the same time.

Grow our Own is a free service providing skills development, careers advice and job search resources for local adults to help set them on the right track for employment.

Crèche facilities are available for family learning courses and, spaces permitting, for general adult learning sessions at Bracknell Open Learning Centre; enquiries should be made when booking a course.

In addition, the Bracknell Centre is also the base for the local branch of the 'University of the Third Age' (U3A). This self-help educational charity is open to adults over 50 who are no longer in full-time employment. Learning is informal, members pay a subscription and the organisation works on the principal of 'you teach me, I teach you'. A computer-interest group meets at the Centre once a month.

Contact the Open Learning Centres on 01344 457427.
Or email olc@bracknell-forest.gov.uk



**Give an
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IN
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Library Service

Log on and learn



Bracknell Forest Council's 9 libraries provide a service within the town itself and its outlying villages.

All branches have PC's available for public use as well as free access to the internet for all their registered library members, Word, Excel and PowerPoint are also freely available.

Other equipment available to library users are colour printers and document scanners.

Librarians routinely assist people with setting up email accounts and generally getting logged on to the computers. The Bracknell Forest Library Service is part of the BBC First Click Campaign.

The Library Service offers a number of IT courses themselves and in partnership with Learndirect.

The types and frequency of the courses is driven by local community needs and differs from branch to branch, but a selection of courses on offer are:-

- Computer for Beginners
- Net for Novices
- Scanning for Beginners
- Internet Clinic

"Children Only" PC's are provided for homework.

You can become a Facebook and Twitter fan of the Bracknell Forest Library and Information Service and interact, digest and be involved in a world of books, multi-media and information. Within the Facebook pages is an online book group, in which users can share opinions and write reviews of a designated book.

Through Facebook, you can find out the latest events, activities and information from all nine Bracknell Forest libraries. This is more than a gateway but a virtual world in which you can search, renew and request all your favourite items from Bracknell Forest Library and Information Service.

We offer access to reputable reference databases from your computer, whenever you have that niggling little question you don't know the answer to. We subscribe to a number of databases to satisfy that quest. Whether it's that 'Who wants to be a millionaire moment', more in-depth enquiries, helping the kids with their homework, what was happening in the world on your birthday, are you really related to the royal family... we'll have the answer for you.

Online resource for learner drivers

A new online resource for learning drivers is now available and anyone who is learning to drive can practise for the driving theory test through their local library.

Theory Test Pro provides a highly realistic online simulation of the UK's driving theory test. It contains the entire official test question bank, hazard perception video clips and an online version of the Highway Code.

Access is free for library members who either call in to any of Bracknell Forest Libraries or want to use it at home. Sign up to take practice driving theory tests by visiting the Theory Test Pro website.