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## Furlong re-launch website!

We have recently re-launched our website, which now has enhanced functionality for registered users. We have already added an 'ideas' page which is a huge leap forward on the old smiling face. You do need to login to use this area though the Smiling Face will soon jump you straight there with no need to login (thanks to The English School of Kyrenia for that idea). In the Ideas area you can

- Log an idea
- Read all the other ideas
- Vote for the ones you like - we will use your votes to help prioritize our development
- Add comments - so if you like an idea and want to expand on it, you can

We are now building a Wiki which, once complete, will replace the help site allowing you access to a much greater range of information and you will be able to add your own thoughts, comments, useful tips and the like. We will link this to stack-overflow making the asking of questions much quicker and simpler. We aim initially to have questions asked in the morning, answered before noon and questions asked in the afternoon answered before close of play. Once we have this working to your and our satisfaction we will see if we can look to improve these targets. At the same time we will be making use of Twitter, Facebook and other such sites. These will be monitored thus we will have much better communication routes for you and for us. Any more ideas for how we can help you make the very best of our products will be most welcome.



Click [here](#) to read more of Howard's Blog

## Hot off the press...

### SchoolBase Anywhere

We are moving full steam ahead to get ALL offline sections of SchoolBase online and all online offline. However if you are running the main Client version of SchoolBase 5, you can now have this so it runs anywhere provided it is running in a Windows environment and you have a VPN tunnel installed. If interested, contact [Stuart](#) in the first instance.

### Release 5

This is out there and proving a huge success. Several schools have successfully moved across and many more are following this Easter. The main issue is setting all your menus up and we are more than happy to help in any way we can. There is no charge for the move. However for those schools that want to stay with 4.6 for some time we stand by supporting through until January 2014. We will review this date in September and if necessary will maintain for a while longer. However please be aware that no new functionality will be added into 4.06. We will correct bugs. We will develop new reports that are school specific such as parental reports but all new development is taking place in 5.

## Parent Tracking

We have started releasing a facility that allows you (at teacher, Department or School level) to put marks into your mark book (grade book for our American curriculum schools) and for these marks or grades to appear in the parent portal (and pupil portal if desired) with no need for tracking or moving data around - all it takes is a tick in a box to say 'publish this'. A parent then just clicks the "my child's progress" button where they see a list of subjects their child is studying. Click a subject to see an analysis of their scores, grades and progress.

What parents see can include calculations to show the grade their child may be working towards. We know IB schools will want this but already see many other uses. If you are interested in this then drop me an email. If your next school year starts in August or later, we can have this up and running for you. Obviously you will need to be using the portals etc. To full service schools (most of our schools) there will be no charge for this additional functionality.

## Road Map

On our website you can find the Roadmap showing all development plans for 2013. This heralds a determination to make our processes and communication with you more accessible. Each major area of SchoolBase is listed. The colour code is as follows:

- **Brown** - you can add your ideas using the Ideas section of the web - you need to be logged on to do this.
- **Grey (R)** - an internal process for us where we develop and walkthrough the requirements documentation. These will be uploaded to the same area and you can see precisely what is planned.
- **Red** - under development
- **Grey (D)** - another internal process to walkthrough that which has been built to ensure it is meeting the requirements documentation
- **Yellow** - User and integration testing
- **Green** - The release week, thus release 2 will be included 5.03.05 due out in the w/c 1<sup>st</sup> July

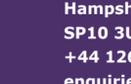
Release	Cycle	2013.00	2013.01	2013.02	2013.03	2013.04	2013.05	2013.06	2013.07	2013.08	2013.09	2013.10	2013.11	2013.12
Activities	3													
	4													
	5													

## AVOID 2013

If you were thinking of switching to Office 2013 we would be grateful if you held off for a while. Put simply version 4.6 of SchoolBase will not work with the Access part of Office 2013. SchoolBase 5 does not care what version of office you have UNTIL you come to reports and if you have parental reports constructed in Access, which most schools do, then again, this needs Office 2010 or earlier. We are working to resolve this issue but we are not there yet!

## New Furlong faces

Furlong watchers will be pleased to learn that my previous PA, Anna, is now the proud mother of Holly and has decided that child rearing is far more fun than looking after me! Please welcome my new PA, Laura, who joined at the end of January. Other new starters include Georgina (Assistant PA), Andy and Tessa - two additional faces on the support team. Kusum and Devika are both new to the development team as replacements for Simon and Joe. Jo has joined Graham to bolster the sales team and we are now looking to recruit two additional developers.



**Devika Rai**



**Georgina Heath**



**Andy Yu**



**Tessa Notman-Watt**



**Kusum Thapa**



**Laura Carey**



**Jo Renfrey**

## Training Courses

Since several of this term's courses were full, we have added a new set of dates for the summer term. You can now book online by selecting the training part on the support page. For overseas schools with new staff joining in August or September we are also planning to hold 'starter' courses in July and August. Please contact us if these are of interest to you.

## User Group Meetings

We have added an extra User Group Meeting for next term. If you have not already booked your space please do so as soon as possible.

22nd April- Northern User Group Meeting

Oldham Hulme Grammar School

6th June- Southern User Group Meeting

Pangbourne College

## Consortium Meeting

Our Consortium Meeting this term will be with Claire's Court. The date is yet to be confirmed and will be released on our website very soon.



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