

## About this website

Welcome to the ghalliem.net website, this short introduction gives the reader an inner perspective of what this site is all about and what it hopes to achieve. In a nutshell this website has been designed to:

- 👉 Assist students attempting their European Computer Drivers Licence (ECDL) examinations attain higher marks through the use of course material which may be downloaded or viewed online, online autocorrecting tests and other related material.
- 👉 Assist students between the age group 13–16 attempting a GCSE<sup>1</sup>/MATSEC<sup>2</sup> Computer Studies examination attain higher marks through the use of course material which may be downloaded or viewed online, online autocorrecting tests and other related material.
- 👉 Have a central online depository of material related to the concept of e-learning, that is, “learning facilitated and supported through the use of information and communications technology, e-learning can cover a spectrum of activities from supported learning, to blended learning (the combination of traditional and e-learning practices), to learning that is entirely online. Whatever the technology, however, learning is the vital element<sup>3</sup>”.

Ghalliem (pronounced Aaa-Leem) is the Maltese word for teacher. This domain name was chosen as it fits the scope of the site content. The website was developed to assist students attending St. Michael Foundation in Malta to

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<sup>1</sup> General Certificate of Secondary Education. Traditional academic qualifications, usually taken at school

<sup>2</sup> MATSEC is Malta’s national examinations similar to GCSE’s

<sup>3</sup> <http://internal.bath.ac.uk/web/cms-wp/glossary.html>

achieve better results in their ECDL examinations which is part of the school curriculum. The site is the brainchild of Mr. Colin Micallef, the Head of the ICT and Computer Studies department in the school and material is also contributed by the students themselves.

There is much controversy as to what the definition of e-learning is exactly, it is definitely not some form of miraculous pedagogic practice the promises excellent results anywhere it is utilized, and whilst research (see BECTA<sup>4</sup> reports) has detected the improvement of students grades through the use of ICT this could probably be better defined as the effective use of ICT by teachers to deliver their lesson plans effectively utilizing this medium, In the same way that a hammer alone cannot tap a nail into a wall a computer by itself cannot teach you how to pass an exam, it is a tool that has to be used to facilitate your studies.

This website adds to the controversy surrounding e-learning by defining the style that this site is designed for as a blended e-learning system, blended because a certain amount of material is still taught through traditional 'chalk and talk' methods, cross referencing to material that may be found on the website.

We hope that that you find this tool useful and look forward to hearing any comments and advice that you would care to share with us.

Regards

**Colin Micallef**

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.becta.org.uk/>