

*****NEWS RELEASE***NEWS RELEASE*****

**Winning sunflowers selected in national
'Watch Them Grow' competition**

Renaissance Learning's 'Watch Them Grow' sunflower-growing competition has now reached full bloom, and the tallest sunflowers – as well as those with the biggest heads – have been selected from the thousands of schools that participated.

Despite the varied weather conditions over the last few months, two Primary and two Secondary schools have been deemed to have grown the winning sunflowers in terms of height and biggest sunflower head.

The winning schools are:

Tallest sunflower, Primary – Burrowmore School, Cambridgeshire: 310 cm

Tallest sunflower, Secondary – Barnwell School, Stevenage: 279 cm

Biggest sunflower head diameter, Primary – St Mewan's, Cornwall: 35 cm

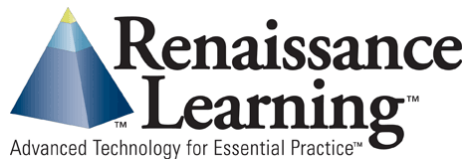
Biggest sunflower head diameter, Secondary – Chapel Grange, Bradford: 23 cm

Sharon Bowles, the Learning Leader of Maths at Barnwell school, attributes their success to:

"...the fact that all of the 240 students in Year 7 took part in growing a sunflower plant, and they were fully involved in their care by watering them in their lunchtime. As a result, our chances of growing the tallest sunflower was much improved."

In recognition of their efforts, each of the schools has won a set of five robust, portable and lightweight NEO 2 writing devices – that are also compatible with Accelerated Reader Advantage quizzes – and can significantly help pupils 'grow' their writing and literacy skills.

Dirk Foch, Managing Director of Renaissance Learning UK Ltd, comments:



“The response to the ‘Watch Them Grow’ campaign has been phenomenal, with countless teachers registering for more information on how to ‘grow’ their school’s standards of literacy, numeracy and writing. Many of these have also participated in the sunflower-growing competition, and I would like to thank them all for their efforts. Unfortunately, there can be only one winner in each category, and we would like to congratulate all the winners. However, fantastic prizes are still available in the on-going ‘Quest for Knowledge’, which is free for UK primary and secondary schools to enter at www.watchthemgrow.co.uk/quest.”

Issued:28/09/09

- Ends -

Ref:RL0909WTGW

For further press enquiries, please contact Gareth Andrews, Tel: 020 7184 4074, email gandrews@renlearn.co.uk, or Nicki Walker, Tel: 020 7184 4071, email nwalker@renlearn.co.uk, website: www.renlearn.co.uk.

About Renaissance Learning UK Limited

Renaissance Learning UK Limited is a subsidiary of Renaissance Learning Inc, founded in Wisconsin (USA) in 1986. Renaissance Learning UK Ltd is a leading provider of educational solutions to primary and secondary schools across the United Kingdom.

Adopted by more than 74,000 schools worldwide and used by over 300,000 children in the UK every day, Renaissance Learning produces the world’s most widely used reading software, Accelerated Reader Advantage, and the world’s most successful maths software, Accelerated Maths Advantage.

Renaissance works closely with the National Literacy Trust, the National Education Trust and Specialist Schools and Academies Trust, and is supported by best-selling authors for children, such as Malorie Blackman, Peter J Murray and GP Taylor.

About NEO 2

NEO provides low-cost, simple and trouble-free computing. With over 700 hours battery-life and an extremely robust design, the portable note-takers can be found working in classrooms and on field-trips worldwide, everyday. NEO is also frequently the portable word-processor of choice by many writing professionals, including journalists and authors. NEO 2 builds on this by including full wireless voting and assessment functionality, wireless printing, and Accelerated Reader compatibility.