

**“THE VIDEOCONFERENCING IN THE CLASSROOM PROJECT”  
July Newsletter**



Global Leap [www.global-leap.com](http://www.global-leap.com)  
in association with  
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A great big Thank You to all our friends around the world, who have supported “The Videoconferencing in the Classroom Project” during the last school year.

If you’ve registered or updated your contact details on the website in the last few weeks thank you.

Some schools won’t be receiving this newsletter because their contact details are out of date and the email contact has failed. It’s important and very easy to update your details. Just review your entry on the website and email any changes to [help@global-leap.com](mailto:help@global-leap.com) .

Just to update you, The Department for Education and Skills continues to provide funding that makes the project possible. Here in the UK, videoconferencing is attracting a lot of attention and the Global Leap team have been speaking at education conferences and encouraging more schools to add their details to the website, develop partnerships and supporting colleagues in developing videoconferencing as a resource in their classrooms through training and arranging events and working with museums and galleries.

Here in the Northern Hemisphere, teachers are looking forward to their summer break.

If you can find the time we’d still like to catch up with your news (include a picture if possible) and we will include it in the project newspaper that we will produce during August and early September. Thanks if you’ve already sent something.

Here is one of the stories that will be appearing in our newspaper in the Autumn.

On Monday June 16th, pupils in their classrooms in Slough, Gloucester and New York, met via videoconference link, to take part in a forum to discuss and examine some of the complicated issues concerning Iraq.

They were “joined” by Clare Short MP, who generously gave her time by popping in to the National Portrait Gallery, in London, to join the forum via video-conference link. She was able to add significantly to the pupils’ knowledge and understanding of these complicated issues, by her informative and constructive contribution to the discussion. The students were able to demonstrate their speaking, listening and presentation skills to good effect. For some of them, this was their first experience of using this form of technology, as a resource to support their learning, and to enable them to exchange views with their peers through this transatlantic multipoint videoconference link.

Thank you Clare.

On Friday, children at Drumemble Primary School in Scotland met via video-conference link with Museum Education Officer, Grant Rogers, at the Imperial War Museum, in London. Grant presented to the class examples of pictures, photographs, paintings and cartoons featuring Churchill and Hitler. He helped and encouraged the children to observe and comment on the images of these famous historical figures in the context of World War Two, which was part of their programme of study for this term.

Next the children took part in a drawing activity. Grant, a talented artist and cartoonist himself - helped the children to produce their own caricatures of the famous historical figures. The intense concentration on the faces of the pupils as they worked, led by Grant, 600 miles away, was a delight to watch. The children have promised to scan their pictures, and send them to Mike Griffith, to be displayed on the Global Leap website [www.global-leap.com](http://www.global-leap.com).

Both of these activities were just two of the 35 or so activities available free to schools each month, as part of the DfES (ICTiS) “Videoconferencing in the Classroom Project”.

To book your activity for your class, visit the Global Leap website [www.global-leap.com](http://www.global-leap.com) and choose an activity for your class and fill in the online form.

The videoconference equipment at the National Portrait Gallery, the Imperial War Museum and other locations has been loaned and is supported by the “Videoconferencing in the Classroom Project” as part of its museums and galleries programme.

Every day, teachers across the UK, and around the world, can receive telephone advice, videoconference far end advice, technical and practical support and curriculum advice through this project.

The “Videoconferencing in the Classroom” team regularly talks to teachers in their classrooms, and takes them through the practical and technical issues related to videoconferencing. As long as you have a telephone or mobile phone in the same room as your videoconferencing kit, the team can talk you through what to plug in where, and can usually troubleshoot and solve common technical issues.

The team can also join your staff meetings via videoconference to discuss appropriate curriculum applications for this resource to add value to learning.

Just a small selection of the many schools supported by the project this week included, Godwin Primary, Newham, London, working with Mona Heights Primary School, Kingston, Jamaica; St Luke’s School, Redbourn, Hertfordshire; St Wilfred’s Catholic High School, Featherstone working with

Eastview Elementary School, New York; PGCE citizenship students in Bristol; Woodton Primary School, in Norfolk; Blatchington Mill Performing Arts School, in Hove; Maiden Erlegh School, Reading; Stockton Sixth Form College, Stockton; Great Ormond Street Hospital School, London; Furze Platt Infant school, Maidenhead; The Thomas Lord Audley Language College, Colchester working with Merrimac State School, Queensland, Australia; and many others. There are so many colleagues all over the world interested to develop the use of videoconferencing in their classroom there is never a dull moment here. Colleagues and children drop in and out of my office all day to discuss a range of topics. The only thing I can't offer via videoconference, is a cup of coffee and a biscuit.

To contact the team: email [mikeg@global-leap.com](mailto:mikeg@global-leap.com) or telephone 02088666036

**Remember the team needs to know what subjects you would like us to cover next year, so that we can work with the museum, galleries and other colleagues to extend the range of topics offered on the events page of the website.**

Thanks  
Mike