

## GLOBAL-LEAP/VIDEOCONFERENCING IN THE CLASSROOM

[www.global-leap.com](http://www.global-leap.com)



Global Leap [www.global-leap.com](http://www.global-leap.com)

Developing interactive videoconferencing across the curriculum in the UK and around the world

Email: [mikeg@global-leap.com](mailto:mikeg@global-leap.com)

Tel: +44 (0)20 8866 6036

Automated test call facility:

ISDN: +44 (0) 208426 2194 (128K)

IP: 80.68.51.35 (128K)

**Videoconferencing in the Classroom.** [www.global-leap.com](http://www.global-leap.com)

### Newsletter.

**Tuesday August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2005.**

Hi All,

Welcome back to school, (at least, here in the UK, and elsewhere in the Northern Hemisphere.) I hope every one has had a chance to relax and recharge their batteries!

Please forgive the usual beginning of term list of reminders and prompts!!! This project relies on lots of goodwill, from a range of very busy people, and there is no funding to pay for any one's time, trouble, or expenses, so **please**, try and help us to help you, to minimise communication difficulties, and ensure that everything runs smoothly for your planned VC activities.

### Some Golden Rules!

If you have received this message as the registered contact email address for your school, and you are no longer working at the school you were at last July, **please** make sure that your successor receives this information too. Unless we can contact your old school, we cannot support them, or tell them about the VC activities that are available.

**Out of date contact details** lead to breakdowns in communications, and VC failure. Please use your **school ID code** to update your school's information **today**. (If you have forgotten your school's ID code, please email [mikeg@global-leap.com](mailto:mikeg@global-leap.com) identifying yourself and the name of your school, and we will try and help you.) **Please update your existing details**. Don't keep registering again. Some schools have inadvertently achieved multiple registrations, and consequently several slightly differing sets of contact details appear on the network, which makes it very confusing for any one trying to work with them!

**Please Do Not Book** your lessons for this term, until **after** you have updated your information, otherwise your old, incorrect information will be automatically passed to the museum/gallery with inevitable communication problems resulting .....

**New schools**, Please check your connectivity very thoroughly BEFORE you book anything. Don't just book and hope for the best. This creates extra work for everyone chasing you up to find out exactly what equipment/connectivity you are using. (If you are a school in the UK, using broadband with an E164 number, you might need to contact your RBC or LEA). It is not a good idea to book several sessions with various providers and then discover you have a connectivity problem that may take some time to resolve, or unsuitable equipment. Use the automated test facility, (IP 80.68.51.35 (128kb) and ISDN 0208 426 2194 (128kb)) and telephone 0208 866 6036 and ask for a quick face to face test to check out your audio and room set up. Don't block VC sessions that you cannot use. Please, never book a VC lesson slot with a museum and gallery "just to see if it works.....".

You can arrange Inset/CPD direct to your staff room, and initial VC sessions for your classes, at a day/time to suit your school. Telephone 0208 866 6036 to check out diary space.

**Always test from the room you intend to use!** This may seem obvious, but it is surprising how often schools rely on having seen the connection working successfully from their CLC, or a VC suite on an adjacent part of the campus, and assume that it will work from another part of the building, and don't bother to test. They then discover too late that there is a connectivity glitch or the room is unsuitable..... A successful VC test from someone else's school, or office, is not necessarily relevant to your proposed VC room.

**Please do not book sessions on behalf of other people**, and especially not on behalf of other schools.

Experience over the last 4/5 years shows that third party bookings frequently fail because of a breakdown in communication, and too often result in a last minute cancellation.

Class teachers MUST have ownership of the booking and planning of the VC activity, themselves, to avoid these time wasting scenarios, and the best way to ensure this, is by asking the school itself to register and book their own sessions. Then they know exactly what they have made a commitment to take part in, and the museum teacher knows exactly who their client is.

**The class teacher** should try to involve themselves actively in the VC activity. Support and encourage your class, and prompt as necessary. Work with your far end teacher/presenter. Don't sit anonymously at the back, or out of camera shot.

If it is a student group working with a student group overseas, join in and assist with any language issues.

**All times on [www.global-leap.com](http://www.global-leap.com) are in UK times.**(The UK is at GMT+1 until the last week in October, when the UK will revert to GMT). If you are booking the lesson from somewhere in another time zone, please consider carefully if the UK timing will be suitable for you. For example, USA schools should not book UK morning sessions, --unless they intend to bring their class

in, in the early hours. Look for the UK afternoon sessions. If you are not sure about the time differences for you, please click on the **alarm clock icon** on the front page of [www.global-leap.com](http://www.global-leap.com) and check out your time difference to UK time.

**There are about 400 VC sessions currently** up on the website to date for this new academic year. Most of these are from September to December 2005. Please note, not all programmes are there yet. We are still waiting for dates and times from some international colleagues or other UK colleagues who won't have their new timetables until next week. Please keep looking regularly so that you don't miss new opportunities.

If you are intending to use the **UKERNA bridge** to link to any VC lessons, please note that as from approx.end October 2005, the call charges associated with using this bridging facility will no longer be covered by JVCS, and any ISDN call costs/expenses will be passed on to the school or their LEA. The exact mechanism for doing this is still being put in place by JVCS, but as and when further information is available on this, we will try to pass it on to schools. In the meantime, if you are booking VC activities now to take place from October 2005 onwards, please be aware that you may have to cover these ISDN call costs, and make sure you have the necessary permissions, in advance.

Check out your local LEA or regional bridging facility, if there is one.

**Most UK museums/galleries** are currently able to deliver their VC programmes to schools "free at the point of use", from within their allocated education budgets. They may have engaged a freelance teacher, or presenter, or actor, for the day so please be considerate and do not waste scarce and expensive resources, and VC opportunities, by cancellations. Do not block sessions that you do not intend to use. Don't bring whole year groups to a VC lesson. This is about interactive teaching, not broadcasting! Keep your groups small for best experiences and consider booking two or three sessions, if you want a whole year group to take part.

**Some UK Content Providers that do not have access to any funding**, or have particular additional costs (e.g. for the diver at the Barrier Reef) will make a charge for each session. If a charge is applicable, it will make this clear on the events diary, for that particular VC activity.

Some USA museums have generously offered a small range of sample sessions via Global-Leap, free of their usual charges to school. Please support these activities.

Generally, you should expect to pay for USA museum/gallery sessions.

Lack of funding from DfES/BECTa regrettably will mean that more VC events, and particularly one off specially arranged events may have to be charged to the schools taking part.

Although we can generally appeal to some speakers/ independent presenters to support the project on a goodwill basis, there are often travel, subsistence,

and other personal costs that may need to be covered for guests, out of courtesy, for their willingness to give us their valuable time and experience to support your school. We will appreciate your help towards covering any such expenses.

Please make sure you pass on these **e-newsletters** to all staff in all departments of your school, and encourage them to try some of these VC opportunities. Our colleagues rely on your uptake and feedback in order to continue and develop their VC programmes. Please support them!

### **Videoconferencing Newspaper.**

I am once again collecting contributions for an annual newspaper. Please send your contributions to me by the deadline of October 31st 2005. This newspaper is about disseminating information and sharing good practice. Your contributions are welcome.

### **Emailing [mikeg@global-leap.com](mailto:mikeg@global-leap.com)**

Please remember to include your full name, and name/location of your school, **everytime** you email.

We receive dozens of emails requesting help and information every day, and we need to know **who** you are and **where** you are to give appropriate advice. We cannot respond to emails from "John" or "Anne" with no other clues, and remember there are dozens of "St Mary's Primary Schools" around the world, so please make it clear which one you are!!

VC Books and hard copies of previous years newspapers are still available free to teachers, but please, you must cover P+P costs. [book@global-leap.com](mailto:book@global-leap.com)

### **More Opportunities from Paul Butler (Wakefield Education Advisory Service's Secondary Strategy Team)**

ICT and Geography Videoconferences for Key Stage 3: What's on offer? Paul is again offering videoconferences for **Key Stage 3 ICT and Geography** throughout 2005-6. This term he is also offering two days (September 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>) of "drop in sessions". These sessions are an opportunity for teachers to meet with Paul and plan for actual teaching sessions later in the term. Please "drop in" and talk to Paul. Drop in sessions and actual lessons can be booked now on the website.

**New Opportunities from The National Maritime Museum.** Many of you will have enjoyed meeting the Tudor Explorer "Dan Pew". Now you are invited to meet "Robert Bell", one of Nelson's brave gunners at the Battle of Trafalgar.

**New Opportunities at the Science Museum.** Some of you may have met "Gene Cernan" the Apollo Astronaut. Now you can meet "Thomas Crapper" the inventor of the flush toilet. Key stage 1 and 2 classes, see the events diary for these two rare opportunities in September.

Also this term, from the **Museum of London**, look out for the Black Death, The Fire of London, and the Romans.

Key stage 1 and 2 classes will enjoy drama and story sessions with Hayley Ottway. Please see **Videoconferencing Lessons to Go**, and remember to liase with Hayley to plan your lesson content. Hayley also offers some Shakespeare sessions.

### **Keystone Conference 2005**

Sign up now - Early Bird registration ends August 31, 2005 at Midnight (PDT). This presents opportunities to attend in person, or join some of the sessions as a VC link, or watch a live web broadcast.

The Keystone Conference is coming. October 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> 2005.

On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will be presenting an International strand. If you are attending, please support us. Please also support the conference remotely. Let me know your planned involvement so that we can try to meet in person, or via VC links.

For more information go to <http://www.keystoneconference.org>  
<<http://www.keystoneconference.org>>

Look out for **new international opportunities**, presented by our Global-Leap International Ambassadors programme, including **language** opportunities for your classes of all ages.

Many thanks,

Mike

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Mike Griffith (Teacher/Adviser/Consultant "Videoconferencing in the Classroom")

in association with the ICTiS, DfES, British Council and BECTa

<http://www.global-leap.com>

The Global-Leap.com website is a resource for teachers and part of the "Videoconferencing in the Classroom Project" which has received funding from the DfES. The project does not represent any resellers of videoconference equipment.

My Telephone Contact Number:+44 (0)20 8866 6036

Videoconference Help and Support for schools (Technical and Curriculum content and application).

Demonstrations and Testing on Request, School partners and International Links, Museums and Galleries.

Global Leap Automated Videoconference Test Facility ISDN +44 (0) 20 8426 2194

IP Automated Test 80.68.51.35 (recommended 128K)

To arrange a face to face videoconference test telephone: +44 (0)208866 6036 and ask to make an appointment