

**DfES Videoconferencing in the Classroom/www.global-leap.com**  
**February 1<sup>st</sup> 2004 – Newsletter**

**www.global-leap.com - “The videoconference resource for teachers in the classroom around the world”**

Dear Colleague,

**Who wants to be a Millionaire?**

Well it's not the lottery, but [www.global-leap.com](http://www.global-leap.com) has had over 1,000,000 visits in the last 12 months alone, (or since records began as they say). The detailed statistics show that the website receives visits from around the world. The museum, galleries and archive programme is now receiving attention from schools across the Atlantic.

**International week brings videoconference friends and colleagues together.**

I was delighted to learn this week that our colleagues at **St Wilfred's School and Language College**, Featherstone, have arranged an International week in March. I was even more excited when I realized that they had invited some of our colleagues from distant places to attend. It is wonderful to discover that links and introductions initiated and facilitated in their early stages through The Videoconferencing in the Classroom Project can so quickly and easily develop into active projects involving real meetings and working opportunities and relationships in our project schools.

Videoconferencing definitely opens doors to people, places, and activities, you would never have dreamed of!

I am now desperately looking at my own schedule, as I can't possibly miss the opportunity to meet up again with our friends and colleagues, Marion, William and Jodie et al.

Well done St. Wilfred's and Andrew Lewis! Thank you for your initiative and generous hospitality.

Let this be an example of the exciting potential of VC to all our schools.

**Parlez-vous Francais en Angleterre.**

Christine Lafont is visiting us for a short holiday soon. She hopes it will be a holiday, but requests from colleagues to meet her, will mean she has a few VC appointments built into an already busy schedule (I don't think she realises it yet)

You can't be in Global Leap HQ long, without being called on to speak to someone, somewhere, about almost any subject, at almost any time of the day...or night.

**Snow interrupts videoconference with Mona Heights Primary School, Kingston (Jamaica)**

Testing a videoconference connection is all part of the preparation when planning a lesson. Mr Smith and Miss Laird brought their class into the library at **Mona Heights School** to give the pupils their first opportunity to use the videophone and speak to the UK. During the lesson I interrupted the general chatter and asked the pupils if they'd like to see what was happening in the garden outside. There were gasps as the pupils, sweltering in the 40 degree heat of tropical Jamaica watch the snow drifting down and covering the garden in a white blanket. Although they longed something cool in their hot classroom no one really wanted to swap the snow for the sunshine of Kingston.

Mona Heights Primary school is partner school for Godwin Primary School in East London.

### **More News**

Snow storms cancelled one videoconference in New York, and a fire was responsible for the cancellation of another (during Ofsted week) (Ofsted is the School inspection team which visits schools in the UK) Happily these are two exceptions to the otherwise busy and successful videoconferencing week.

The **Ridings High School** in Bristol linked to the Imperial War Museum. Grant Rogers showed them artefacts from the 2nd World War. The pupils also put pen to paper to create caricatures of Churchill.

**Meadowhead School** in Sheffield linked to an Inuit stone carver arranged through our colleagues at SmartLabrador (see website)

**St Peter's High School** in Exeter is busy with their continued success with Bamberg, Germany and developing links with their new partner in Bosnia.

All these schools have received help and support through the project.

Students in Nottingham have had an exciting link with pupils in Pakistan.

Bev Milner - International Dimension Consultant

Nottingham City LEA

writes:

Pupils from **Dunkirk Primary and Nursery School** in Nottingham will visit The North Elearning Centre at Top Valley on Friday 23 Jan at 11.30am. They will have the opportunity to take part in a video conference with 5 pupils and 2 teachers from their partner school The Lahore Lyceum . The Pakistani pupils and their teachers are being flown to Islamabad to take part in the video conference. The coordinating teacher at Dunkirk has just returned from Pakistan after visiting her partner school. The visit was funded by The British Council.

There are many more examples of good practice and exciting projects.

All you need to do is write a short paragraph and we'll do our best to include it in our regular newsletter.

Send the email to [news@global-leap.com](mailto:news@global-leap.com) and put Newsletter story in the subject line.

If your school need an opportunity to introduce your staff to the possibilities of the project, arrange an inset session or a “My First Videoconference” session to talk to Tim Arnold or myself. There are currently sessions available to book via [www.global-leap.com](http://www.global-leap.com) . If you need books/Newspapers for your staff room, please ask. The new edition of the “Videoconferencing in the Classroom” book and newspaper can be seen on the website.

### Some Housekeeping Notes

**The automated test facility numbers: ISDN: 0208 868 8963 (128K) and IP: 80.68.35.5 recommended connection speed (128K).**

The feedback we receive about this facility indicates how popular and useful it is, not only with our project schools, but also with many other schools who have not introduced themselves to us yet, (and so will not receive this newsletter or be able to book the free museum and gallery events). Please make sure you are a registered!

The test numbers are used regularly by school and education centres all over the world and also by a range of companies and businesses with VC facilities. Whilst I’m delighted that you all find the facility so useful, the downside is that sometimes schools are finding the line is engaged, which we know is causing frustration for schools who have booked a session and are anxious to quickly check that everything is ready to go for their lesson.

Please avoid the temptation to dial on the test numbers in for long chunks of time, just to watch the video and listen to the music. Remember others might be waiting to test. Their need might be urgent and brief. If you need to test or work on a PowerPoint presentation and you know that this is going to take the whole morning, please be considerate, and arrange to make a link to another school colleague and not block the test line all morning for other users.

**Thanks.**

A school contacted me this week because they had booked a lesson but not heard from the provider. It turned out that the provider had tried unsuccessfully to make contact with the school using the contact details provided by the school when they booked the session. These turned out to be out of date, and the emails bounced back to the sender. Inaccurate or out of date contact details can waste your time, and will result in frustration and failed VC arrangements. Check your contact details are correct in every respect **NOW**.

Your contact details are sent automatically to the museum or gallery when you book, and if they are wrong they won’t be able to contact you.

**Update if necessary using your school’s individual ID code. If you don’t know this let me know.**

***Another useful tip is to add a “signature” to all you emails with your full contact details. This is easily done in most email packages. Do this simple thing can save so much time and frustration.***

## **Looking forward as ever to hearing all your news.**

Cathy Mitchel in Jackson County, Scotsboro, Alabama is looking for partners to share her "Read Across America Week" (See website)

### **Note to Schools with DfES kit loans and other support received through the "Videoconferencing in the Classroom Project".**

Please remember that we are relying on your feedback and your continued support for the museum and gallery programme.

Our colleagues in the museums really appreciate your support, which will enable them to further develop their programmes over the next year.

**Please note that some school loans will be coming to an end soon. This will give additional schools the opportunity to try videoconferencing in their classroom and to make an informed decision about the additional value that this resource can bring to their curriculum.**

If there are any accidental omissions please let me know for the next newsletter.

Thanks for your continued help and support.

***Please remember to acknowledge the support, help and advice you have received from the DfES "Videoconferencing in the Classroom Project/www.global-leap.com" when recording or reporting your activities on your school website or in the media.***

## **Mike**

Mike Griffith (DfES Consultant "Videoconferencing in the Classroom")

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

The Global-Leap.com website is part of the "Videoconferencing in the Classroom Project" which is funded by the DfES. The project does not represent any resellers of videoconference equipment.

in association with the ICTiS, DfES and Arbour Vale School, Slough, UK

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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 8868 8963

IP Automated Test 80.68.35.5 (recommended 128K)

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