

Dear Colleague,

**Happy New Year**  
**I hope your wishes for 2004 all come true.**

There are so many exciting projects going on. Lots we know about, and lots more where teachers are using the [www.global-leap.com](http://www.global-leap.com) resource to make VC links to colleagues to add value to their lessons. Congratulations on your success and good luck with your plans for the future.

**Global-Leap.com needs your help:**  
**The project is preparing a book to celebrate four years of “Videoconferencing in the Classroom”.**  
**I need your “WOW” stories. The new book will demonstrate that this resource is adding value to the curriculum in classes around the world.**  
**Please can you send me a paragraph and a picture that illustrates and celebrates your school’s videoconferencing activities?**  
**The deadline for this is the January 20<sup>th</sup> 2004.**

In 2004 there will be more projects and lots more videoconferences for you and your class.

A special message for **Key stage 3 Geography teachers** in the NW, SW, and SE of the UK for a project on the regional variations in climate.

Paul Butler Key Stage 3 ICT Consultant writes:

“I’m preparing a videoconference that I am hoping you can offer on your website or newsletter.

The videoconference I am preparing is a geography lesson. It is spread over three lessons with the second lesson involving the VC. I want pupils to produce a study of the climate of their Home Region and then to compare and contrast their climate with that of another region, before using this information to complete their national study in the classroom. The climates of the SE, SW, NE and NW ‘quarters’ of the UK all differ – as the west is wetter than the east; the south warmer than the north in summer; and the SW warmer than the NE in winter. I would act as the teacher of the two classes – very much like you do when you bridge a VC – and encourage the interaction.

I am also preparing resources and lesson plans for the participating schools – all well presented and useable.

St Wilfrid’s Catholic High school and Language College, Featherstone, Yorkshire, UK is in the NE of England, so ideally it would be good to link with other schools in the NW, SE and SW. It would be nice if the participating schools could then link with each other and deliver the same lesson themselves. In the future these schools would be in a position to use their

work to videoconference with schools in other countries and compare and contrast their climates further.”

If your school would like to work with Paul on this project, please contact him. Please also copy me into your responses, ([mikeg@global-leap.com](mailto:mikeg@global-leap.com)), so that I know which regions are covered, and can help to locate a colleague in an unrepresented region, if necessary. Paul is planning this activity to take place late January, early February, so please respond promptly. If there is a big response, we can repeat the activity and link other schools together.

Paul's contact details are.

Paul Butler

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I'm sure this will be a successful project. Any more curriculum ideas out there? Please get in touch and share them, and find partners to work with.

**In January 2004 “Videoconferencing in the Classroom/Global-Leap.com” will again be at an education show at Olympia in London, UK. The BETT show is one of the biggest technology shows in Europe. If you are coming to London you can join us at the show on Stand Z25. If you want to join us on the stand, via videoconference from your school, to meet visitors, let me know. You can pick up your copy of the newly re edited and updated book, “Video Conferencing in the Classroom”, written by Tim Arnold, Steve Cayley and Mike Griffith. This is FREE to teachers. The book contains new information, and useful advice and suggestions for successful Videoconferencing. The latest addition of the project newspaper will also be available on the stand.**

**We will be linking to colleagues across the UK and around the World, from our stand Z 25, which is located, near the DfES stand and the NAACE lounge.**

**The BETT Show, OLYMPIA is January 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> 2004.**

**[www.bettshow.co.uk](http://www.bettshow.co.uk)**

Please encourage your teachers to review the events available through our museums and galleries programme. There are programmes available, suitable for all key stages and they are FREE to registered schools, excluding call costs.

. The many and varied subjects available include:

The History of Medicine, Art and history, Looking at pictures, Vikings, French conversation, Stories from the Tower of London, 2<sup>nd</sup> World War Art and Propaganda, Life in the Trenches, The execution of Charles I, Leisure and Tourism and many many others. If you can't find what your class is studying, please talk to us, so that we can work with you and the museum and gallery colleagues to address your students needs in the future.

Are any schools studying North American Indians this term? If so, contact me please.

Please remember to update your contact details on the [www.global-leap.com](http://www.global-leap.com) Directory BEFORE booking your sessions. Your contact details will be automatically forwarded to the museum or gallery. It is ESSENTIAL that your contact details are accurate, and they include an ACCURATE CURRENT email address. IF YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS IS MISSING OR INCORRECT, THE BOOKING SYSTEM WILL NOT WORK. Please remember to indicate clearly which session you require, if a choice is offered. Also include the age and number of students taking part, and some details about what they have been studying.

Feedback following the events is always welcome, in order to inform future planning.

The " Videoconferencing in the Classroom Project" has supported hundreds of schools across the UK and internationally, with advice, far-end support, in -service training, practical support in the classroom, trouble shooting, equipment loans, partner finding, and VC events, since 2001. We look forward to continuing to work closely with you, in your classrooms, in the coming months. We also look forward to working with new colleagues, anywhere, to develop VC activities. If you know of a museum/ gallery or other organisation, who would like to join the Video Conferencing in the Classroom Project, please pass on our contact details.

Remember, its not the technology that makes successful videoconferencing, but the teachers and students, and how they use it in the classroom.

### **Best wishes for 2004**

#### **Mike**

##### **Contact details:**

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

Broadband IP 80.68.35.5

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