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The Videoconferencing in the Classroom Project
www.global-leap.com

Newsletter June 2004.

Please ensure that your school colleagues have access to this newsletter. Thank you.

First some comments from schools that have participated in recent museum and galleries events:

These are popular so book early to avoid disappointment!

The National Maritime Museum

"Thoroughly enjoyed it - the children were spell bound by the actor - please pass on our thanks." (Fiona Grunenburg, Hillside Primary School)

"The videoconference we took part in was great. All students participated, they had fully prepared before hand. The teachers response was "that was great, completely aimed at the right level" she designed an activity for the students to do back at school after the videoconference. Thanks." (Angela Poplar, Tower Hamlets City Learning Centre)

"Thank you for the enjoyable videoconference we had with you on May 11th. The children were very interested in your story of Trim the ship's cat. The sound quality was good, as was the camera. We were able to see clearly. The information was pitched at the correct level for the children, shown by the fact that they were able to interact with you. Once again, thank you." (Jane Arnold, Furze Platt Infant School)

"The link was very successful, the information was relevant to our Viking topic and the children enjoyed seeing the exhibits on the screen. They were somewhat shy to speak at first, but improved slightly as they became more used to it. A useful experience. We were in York for the school trip, Vikings of course!! I didn't know that Scottish Vikings and English Vikings were different. Scottish ones are from Norway English ones are from Denmark so there you go. I also learned that the Scots, who populated our peninsula from N Ireland originally, fought with the Vikings against Athelstane in England. We were

beaten so that's probably why we hear nothing about it!! We can all learn something new." (Marion Morris and Valerie Conley, Carradale Primary School)

The Imperial War Museum

"The session went great. I think the next time we do it with Grant we will do it in smaller groups. The quality of the VC was very good. The administrators at the school are very pleased. Grant did wonderful job, he kept the attention of 8th Graders (14 years old) very well. I saw what Mike was speaking about with Visuals to enhance the project. We are in the planning stage for next year and we will be doing that session again. The content was good because it gave the students knowledge about and beyond what we cover on the War in Europe for WW2. I would like to maybe next year speak on the Battle of Britain. I believe it will be the 65th anniversary of the Spitfire. We look forward to working with Global Leap next year in Projects from Special Ed to the high school." (Beau Sherman, Instructional Tech. Specialist, Colquitt County Schools Colquitt County GA, USA)

The National Portrait Gallery

"The videoconference was very interesting - full of lots of interesting information to help the children understand why all the details were included in Tudor portraits. The children learned a lot of information about the Tudor monarchs from looking at the pictures and it has really helped to make their history work come alive. Thank you." (Fiona Grunenburg, Hillside Primary School)

The Cabinet War Rooms

"Our children enjoyed their session with the Cabinet War Rooms very much. We had no technical problems and the session went smoothly. We had a bit of a mix up concerning what the session was about but I think that was our fault. I book the sessions and then hand the info over to the relevant year group leader who then hands the session on to a member of the support staff. Our chain of communication broke down and the last group who conference were expecting a different session. I have spoken to a member of your staff and we all know what is happening in our remaining two sessions!!" (Clare Belshaw, Sharmans Cross Junior School)

(Take note! Keep communication simple!)

Reef HQ

"I am sorry that I cannot help you on aspects that could be improved – but the reason is that it was perfect. Our 128 connection was just about good enough (I wish we could afford a 256 connection). The format of being directed by their educational advisor and switching to Fred underwater worked very well. They really understood our age group (Year 5) and questions/commentary was very much something they could work with.

I had invited one or two heads of ICT from other schools – who had looked at videoconferencing some years ago and had dismissed it that are now looking at the technology again. They were very impressed.

"The barrier reef team is really geared up to make the conference extremely worthwhile. I have to say that one of our previous conferences with the Maritime museum was equally professional. Excellent links through global leap – thank you very much." (M. Prestley, Holmewood House)

For more information about any museum and gallery videoconference lessons please contact mikg@global-leap.com Registered schools can book sessions on www.global-leap.com.

More news of other recent events:

Ridings High School and Japan videoconference link

"Thank you so much for bridging the link between The Ridings and Japan, it helped a lot especially with the photos at the end. I have written a short report to the Headmaster at our school, he was present for part of the conference, and I am hoping to develop the link in the future with Japan." (Steve Prescott, Ridings High School)

New Zealand/ Italy videoconference link

"This is a photo of our two exchange students from Easter Island, broadcasting from our video conferencing room at Hato Paora College NZ to Italy. The Priest is Fr Damian Dempsey, who teaches guitar. The other photo is of the Italian Class 30 miles north of Florence." (Rosalyn Williamson, Hato Paora College, New Zealand)



Using video conferencing to enhance the gifted and talented programme.

Video conference demonstrations and discussions will form part of Gloucestershire's Secondary and Primary Head teachers and Co-ordinators Gifted and Talented conference in June. Hilary Pride from St. Peter's Primary School in Portishead and Rob Ford from the Ridings High School in Winterbourne will be talking about their use of video conferencing to extend the international dimension in schools. One of the many successful video conferencing events arranged by Rob was a talk with Lord Stockton, Member of the European Parliament (MEP). History and politics students from the Ridings enjoyed a very lively and informative discussion with Lord Stockton from the European Parliament in Strasbourg just a few days before Europe Day (May 9th).

“How important is sport in your community?” “Who is your favourite sporting personality?” “What unusual sports do you play in your country?” -

Just some of the questions that students from Cirencester Kingshill School will be asking their peers in Italy and Sweden during a videoconference in June.

This is part of a bigger European project as part of this year's European Year of Education through Sport (EYES) which will involve students from 11 European countries discussing issues to do with sport, face to face and through videoconferences.

The title of the project is "Sport and fitness for everyone - a view from Europe's young people". The project organisers are awaiting confirmation in June of funding from the EU and would be very interested to hear from groups across the world who would like to be involved or who have contacts in sporting organisations across the world with whom they could video conference e.g. the Olympic movement, top class sport clubs, sporting heroes.

Comment tu t'appelles?

Children and parents from St. Andrew's Primary School in Hull will be practising their newly acquired French skills this week through video conferencing. If you would like to add an extra dimension to your early French lessons why not arrange a video conference with the International Education Office in Gloucester.

Special Needs Education - teacher to teacher discussions on pedagogical issues.

If you are involved in Special Needs education and would like to meet via video conference with other teachers to discuss a specific issue please let us know and we will arrange it!

Subjects suggested so far include autism and inclusion.

European School Linking and Video conferencing.

Now is the time to be thinking about finding links for a curriculum based European School linking project for which funds are available from the European Commission.

Some of this funding can be used to help purchase video conferencing equipment and support the running costs of video conferences with your partners.

Colleagues at the International Education Office can provide advice on all aspects of international school linking.

Contact mary.wormington@gloucestershire.gov.uk for more information on any of the above.

I am still coming across the occasional school that is paying unnecessarily high ISDN call costs. It only takes a few moments to check your bills and see what tariff you are on. You should only be paying the cheapest quarterly line rental available. If you are not, then contact BT and get it changed! Also,

register your ISDN number with a third party provider for vastly reduced call costs. I am pleasantly surprised by how low my ISDN line bills are, even though I make calls everyday to a wide variety of destinations.

If your school would like some staff inset for VC or 'My First Videoconference' opportunities for your class, please book a session on www.global-leap.com. Any of the colleagues in the Videoconferencing in the Classroom Project will be happy to help you.

Some of the museums are offering links for summer schools. Please see www.global-leap.com for details.

Our project brief includes sharing and celebrating your VC activities. Please send us news of what you have been up to, and share it with other schools.

Best regards,
Mike

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

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

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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