

Global-leap/Videoconferencing in the Classroom



Global Leap www.global-leap.com

in association with ICT in Schools, The Department for Education and Skills

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June/July News

Human Rights

Our recent twice weekly series of International multipoint VC activities on the subject of Human Rights, delivered during May, and concluding in June, has involved some 12 schools and locations across the UK and the USA. Organised and facilitated by John Blaser and Anita Better in New York, and Mike Griffith in London, the series of Interactive VC activities gave students the opportunity to meet with Holocaust survivors, and listen to and discuss the issues of genocide in Rwanda, Sudan, Bosnia Sudan and Cambodia.

Students were able to continue the collaboration via a blackboard website.

The series has been extremely well received by the participating schools.

One of the contributors, Dr Gregory Stanton, President, Genocide Watch Coordinator, The International Campaign to End Genocide, gave us the following feedback.

"It was a real pleasure to be with you on the videoconference. I was deeply impressed by the students who participated. They asked questions that showed an awareness of the world that is much more advanced than that of most adults in America and the UK today, and is far beyond what we knew at the same age." I and my US and UK colleagues have been delighted and privileged to facilitate and enable these students to learn more about these important issues and enable them to articulate their knowledge and views with and too a wider audience, beyond their own classrooms.

Mike Griffith.

Author

In June, we were delighted to welcome Lynne Reid Banks to our studio, to meet and talk to readers of her stories in Bristol and Lincolnshire. The groups included children with special educational needs. The teachers involved stressed how pleased they were that their classes could have this valuable opportunity to have direct access to the author of books they had been sharing in class. The stories they discussed included "Tiger, Tiger", which is set against a Roman background, and "The Poisonous Caterpillar"

Lynne said she would be interested to visit again, and meet other classes. The very next week, I met a teacher who had just finished reading "The Indian in the Cupboard" with her class, and was upset to realise she had missed this valuable opportunity.

So, teachers, please look REGULARLY at the website to see what is available, in case you miss something. Sometimes opportunities come up at quite short notice!!

Journalist

We also had another visit from Guardian Journalist Jerome Monahan, who met with schools across the UK, in Cheshire, Cumbria and Hampshire to look at writing and editing skills. Thank you again Jerome for giving your time so generously. We hope to see you again in September, with some Shakespearean sessions, I hope.

Bullying

Another visitor in June was from "Kidscape". Claude Knights met with a school in Suffolk to explore issues surrounding bullying. Thank you Claude. Kidscape will be presenting further opportunities for working with your teachers and students in September. Look out for these opportunities on the website.

CPD sessions have continued throughout May and June.

These have included sessions delivered directly to staffrooms across the UK.

We also arranged a series of multipoint CPD sessions between UK primary schools in Gloucestershire, Humberside, North Somerset and New York Elementary School Advisors and Headteachers, to look at literacy skills and how they are delivered on different sides of the Atlantic.

BT "Sleep Over."

On June 18th, BT organised a Sleep Over for 30,000 children in locations around the UK, to raise funds for selected charities. One of the activities included videoconference links. We were pleased to be able to support the event with equipment loans and practical support and help to make this happen. A good time was had by all!!

Museums and Galleries.

Thank you for all your hard work this year. The programme has made available over a 1000 VC opportunities to schools this year. As well as schools from across the UK, schools from USA, Moscow, Spain, Pakistan and other places around the world have used the museum/gallery programme, with great success. Some of the museums have been working hard to expand their programmes for next term. Please look at the events diary now, and start to book your sessions for next term. NEW SCHOOLS! Please check out your connectivity thoroughly BEFORE you book museum sessions. Limited staff/time at these locations mean they cannot spend time on your technical issues.

I have been working with several new museum providers over the last months to loan equipment and support and trial new programmes. Look out for new sessions on the Romans, the Fire of London and the Black Death. You will love them!!.

Thank you to all the schools who have supported our programmes this year, and welcome to all the new schools.

International Programme.

I have continued to support many of our colleagues in different countries, with inset, far end support, MFVC sessions and equipment loans, to enable these colleagues to work with UK schools. Some of these colleagues have given very generously of their time to enable UK schools to take their first cautious steps into experiencing an international VC links. Thank you Atsuku, Olga, Aga, Michael, John, Beau, Arne, Marita, Ibolya, Amy, Jodie, Marion, Fred, Parveen and ALL our other friends and colleagues.

UKERNA Bridge

We have used this facility on some 100 or so occasions since October 2004 to facilitate a very wide range of IVC activities between schools and museums and galleries across the UK and Internationally. Many thanks to the staff in Edinburgh who have patiently sorted out the occasional glitches that inevitably

occur, when new schools and colleagues find their way through using a new resource.

Funding.

No funding is currently available from the DfES, BECTa or The British Council to continue to support and deliver your programmes and VC opportunities. We will try to continue to deliver this programme, but we will have to ask schools/others to contribute towards the costs involved, wherever they possibly can. I do not believe this is the route we ought to have to go down, as it will exclude many very small schools and under funded schools, who are the very schools we are trying to support, to enable them to access this valuable teaching and learning resource.

Those of us who are starting their summer holiday breaks, I hope you have a relaxing and well deserved rest.

Best Wishes,
Mike.

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