

GLOBAL-LEAP/VIDEOCONFERENCING IN THE CLASSROOM

www.global-leap.com



Global Leap www.global-leap.com

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

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Global-Leap/Videoconferencing in the Classroom

October Newsletter.

This resource for teachers was developed and supported from October 2001 through to March 2004 with direct and substantial financial support from the Department of Education and Skills -ICT in Schools Division, here in the UK.

The resource was developed to:

- Provide practical support and advice direct to teachers in their classrooms,
- Loan equipment and provide consultancy to a range of schools across the UK
- Support schools for a VC research programme, funded by DfES.
- Loan equipment to a range of Museums, Galleries, Archives and other potential providers of VC content and give ongoing practical support and consultancy to museum colleagues to develop a Museum, Gallery and Archive VC programme. Support schools across the UK to access the VC programme successfully.
- Produce a range of written advice available free to teachers in schools.
- Explore and evaluate various technology solutions to identify suitable equipment, connectivity for classroom use.
- Support a range of International colleagues with equipment loans and the necessary practical support to enable them to work successfully with UK schools.
- Build a team of colleagues (funded via DfES) across the UK available to work with and support schools to develop VC activities.
- Promote the programme directly to teachers, via various exhibitions and conferences, including setting up and running BETT 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004.
- Coordinate and manage DfES funding direct to other colleagues in the International Education Office, Gloucester, Devon LEA, Kent and Yorkshire to enable them to support schools and develop VC resources and deliver VC content.
- Develop and maintain the global-leap.com website resource for teachers.
- Build a knowledge and experience base and extensive practical expertise for sharing with LEA's and others interested in developing this communication tool to support teaching and learning. Disseminate good practise. Provide feed back and advice/reports to DfES.
- Provide practical far end support and troubleshooting and testing facilities for schools.
- Initiate and support successful International Programmes.
- Deliver over 1000 VC activities to schools each year. Deliver inset and initial VC sessions direct to staffrooms and classrooms on request.
- Visit schools around the country to deliver inset and advice.
- From April 2004-March 2005, funding was received from BECTA to continue to support the programme. This funding covered some connectivity and administration and finance costs to enable the programme to continue to be delivered without cost to the schools or museums involved.

Since April 2005, the programme has received no funding from DfES or BECTa.

Since April 2005, there has been no funding for admin support, essential connectivity, web support, teaching support, technical support, financial administration, or consultancy for colleagues, to continue to work with schools and museums.

I have continued to support and coordinate the Museum Programme, the International Programme, and any UK school who asked for advice and help, and brought in a range of additional museums and other providers of content, giving practical support every day, and where necessary equipment loans and technical support.

This continued support has enabled LEA's and RBC's to have immediate access to an established VC resource for their own projects to use, as they gradually develop and explore the use of this technology within their own local areas. I have continued to coordinate the museum programmes, supporting colleagues, and supporting the increasing numbers of schools using a variety of connectivity and bridging solutions.

The practical demands and financial burden of maintaining and continuing to develop this resource for teachers every day, without funding, has become unsustainable.

In April 2005 Schools and Museums were invited to become "project management schools" by buying into this resource, with a small amount of funding to enable them to access continued practical support and content, in return for a nominal "2 days consultancy", for ongoing availability of my time, far end VC facilities and advice and support. A small number of schools have chosen this option, and this has generated a small amount of income towards covering essential connectivity and telephone costs.

However, the continued demand from hundreds of other schools/LEA's and RBC's who have chosen not to support the programme financially, but still want to access the content and practical support on demand, has continued to mean an increasing and unsustainable work load for myself.

It is with great regret therefore that I have decided that I can no longer respond to all requests for help and content. I will only support those schools/museums that have opted for nominal "project management".

If you would like your school to join the Project Management and Support Programme, please contact me for further details.

I will continue to support all our International colleagues without funding, although this is a very expensive and very time consuming part of the programme. However the results are always well worth it. (Any UK school that has benefited from working with our international colleagues will readily agree with this!).

However our international colleagues will be asked only to work directly with schools that have opted for "programme management". They will **not** be generally available to all/any schools as previously, in recognition of the huge amount of sustained personal time, energy and finance it takes for me to give practical support to schools in other countries, often over many months, or even years.

Schools also need to recognise that working to troubleshoot/ arrange the various bridging arrangements/registration and testing procedures can be immensely time consuming, to ensure success for schools.

Equipment loans and support will continue to be available in suitable cases, for both schools and content providers.

Some providers of content with current equipment loans, but who are not currently contributing to project management, will be asked to return their equipment so that it can be available for NEW museums who are waiting to use it.

It is with great regret that I am being forced to introduce these changes, but the excessive physical and financial burden of continuing to keep this resource for teachers available myself has become impossible without a reliable source of funding, and I am unable to continue to subsidise the resource myself to the current extent.

I would like to thank Polycom USA who have recognised the value of keeping this resource for teachers afloat, and have promised some funding to help to subsidise and extend the programme of content and support for teachers in their classrooms.

If the funding situation changes, and we can get additional staff/help, then of course the situation will change, and we will be able to continue to work with all schools.

Four years of DfES investment and time has been put into developing this highly successful, innovative and proactive programme and in, building up a wealth of practical experience and expertise among a team of colleagues.

Thank you to all the schools that have supported the programme since 2000.

Events News

The **National Maritime Museum** has a series of very special video conferences next Tuesday 18th October to mark the bicentenary of the Battle of Trafalgar.

Robert Bell, one of Nelson's gunners gives a fictional, yet historically accurate account of the harsh and dangerous life in Nelson's fleet. No-one had a better taste of the action than the gunners below deck. They fired cannons at the enemy French ships to destroy Napoleon's dreams of ever conquering England.

This session covers National Curriculum English Key Stage 2: Speaking, Listening, Group discussion and interaction and Language variation

Book now at <http://www.global-leap.com> there are sessions free at 10:15; 11:30; 13:15; 14:30.

Thanks

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