

**“THE VIDEOCONFERENCING IN THE CLASSROOM PROJECT
www.global-leap.com”**



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**The Videoconferencing in the Classroom Project www.global-leap.com
Newsletter November 1st 2004.**

Please make sure that all your colleagues across all curriculum areas, have access to this newsletter, as it contains opportunities for VC activities of interest to them.

News from colleagues.

Clarissa Aston at the National Maritime Museum writes about Trim the Cat's Adventures - Trim on his travels again!

Trim the Cat paid a visit to Pakistan this month to tell his tales of excitement and adventure with fellow explorer Matthew Flinders. Of course, Trim didn't have to endure the trials and tribulations of the sea voyage all over again, because he talked to the school by video conference! He was able to show the pupils all the weird and wonderful plants he found in Australia and the strange animals he met through the video camera. If only they had had video conferences in the 18th century, then he could have seen Australia without getting lost in Mauritius on the way home!

Clarissa is hoping to expand the current output of VC activities available from the National Maritime Museum very soon. She is hoping to use the early morning slots and end of afternoon slots to offer VC sessions to schools. This is the time of day before school visitors arrive, and after they have gone back to school, so we are really grateful that she has thought to use some of this time to support the Videoconferencing in the Classroom Project/ www.global-leap.com

USA school –seeking partner:

“We would like to incorporate our "Flat Stanley" project into a video conferencing activity. Flat Stanley is the character from books written by Jeff Brown. Students create a doll version of Flat Stanley in which travels around the world learning about communities. Do you have any suggestions and/or providers who would like to participate in this experience? My colleague and I would like to obtain rural and urban communities through a multiple point video conference with our suburban community. Therefore, we could learn about each community in person. Please help!

Contact mikeg@global-leap.com, for details.

Elizabeth Hearndon in **Georgia, USA** enjoyed her recent VC link with Ravensbourne School, and says, " I enjoyed reading the newsletter yesterday, Thanks so much for

all of your help. I think this is one of the best projects I have been involved in during my 25 years of teaching."

Stockton CLC tell me they are arranging a Tudor Day involving musicians, and a VC link to the NPG to learn more about Tudors through looking at portraits. We look forward to hearing how it goes.

We were delighted to learn recently that our colleague Rosslyn Williamson in **New Zealand**, has got together with another of our VC colleagues in Italy Paolo Badioli, and will be visiting Paolo's school in **Italy** very soon.) We look forward to hearing more about it soon.

John Warwick at St Lukes School in Herts, and Steven Potter at Plaistow and Kirdford Primary in Sussex are visiting their Comenius project partners this week. VC is going to be a significant part of their project. We look forward to their feedback. Kirdford and Plaistow School have borrowed a Viewstation from the project.

Rob Ford at The Ridings is well into their project with their partner school in **Norway**. They have already had several VC links between parents, teachers and pupils They have arranged a series of regular VC sessions across the next few months.

Our colleague, Agnieszka Stirczewska in **Poland** is looking forward to her VC links with her partner school Chosen Hill, in Gloucestershire, using the equipment we have been able to lend to her school.

Aga has also been able to support another school in Poland that also has project equipment loan and was experiencing a technical problem. It is great when colleagues can support each other in this way.

More good news from St Peter's High School in Exeter and Dientzenhofer Gymnasium, Bamberg in **Germany**. This Bamberg school was one of the first schools to be identified and supported by the Videoconferencing in the Classroom Project, early in 2001. We were able to introduce the two schools and support the development of the project. Today their project continues to go from strength to strength, and they have recently been presented with an award. This is down to hard work and good and regular communication between the two teachers involved, Alison Sykes and Carmen Rascher. The two schools have been awarded a **European Language Award**, a **German Language Prize** and an **International Award**.

The Poitiers/Lincolnshire Primary school project is developing well. We hope they will share their individual stories and VC experiences with us as they gradually build up their VC expertise. The French teachers will be visiting Lincolnshire in the next few weeks.

I hear that our colleague Marita Vainikainen in **Finland** is sending her daughter to stay with her partner colleague in the UK . The two schools have a very successful VC project and link regularly using the VC equipment on loan through the project.

Please continue to send your news items to share with everyone.
If we have accidentally missed you out, please remind us and send us your news asap.

Phil Stanley-Berridge says "The Museums Galleries and Archives programme continues to grow at a healthy rate. Check www.global-leap.com for details of lessons. The National Archives have now opened their brand new, purpose built, videoconference studio. Cath Hammond decided to make this kind of commitment

because of the increasing number of schools wishing to Videoconference with The National Archives. The National Archives can now offer Videoconference sessions at the same time as on site visits, which is a huge plus for them. Check www.global-leap.com to find out about the fantastic Videoconference lessons available at The National Archives including the wonderful KS3 History “First World War ‘All Pals Together’: a soldier’s story from the trenches” workshop.

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

This term the NPG have introduced new lessons for Key Stage 1, called “Famous People”. Sessions available include the following;

- Guy Fawkes and the gunpowder plot.
- Charles II in the oak tree.
- Samuel Pepys and the fire of London.
- Florence Nightingale.
- Beatrix Potter and Peter Rabbit

Interested? Then log onto www.global-leap.com for more details.

Welcome Back Wellcome Trust Library

When Samantha Cairns moved to the Cabinet war Rooms back in the Summer the events from the Wellcome Trust Library had to postpone their VC programme pending the appointment of a new education officer. I am delighted to hear that an appointment has now been made and we look forward to re opening the fascinating VC programme from the Wellcome Trust library.

Mexicolore

Piloted a day of videoconferencing on the theme of Mexico and the Aztecs at the beginning of October. Thank you to those schools who supported that days activities and provided invaluable feedback.

There are more sessions in November and December (see website for details)

Making the Connection

Bridging IP/ISDN calls

The museums/galleries taking part in the Videoconferencing in the Classroom Project/ www.global-leap.com Project Programme, have ISDN connectivity. However, it is becoming increasingly possible to join these events if your school has broadband connectivity (Your school may have firewall security so ask the network managers to help you answer this question).

Remember, that if you can connect successfully to Mike's office, we can link your IP call directly to the museum or gallery. This works very well and we often arrange to do this for schools here and overseas who would like to use these lessons, but don't have an ISDN line. Obviously, we need you to arrange to test your connectivity to us, **BEFORE** you book a lesson on line.

Telephone +44 (0)208 866 6036 to arrange this.

Schools new to the project.

If you are new to the project, please arrange a VC test call to Mike to check out your room set up before you book any lessons. It is well worth doing this as it is often possible to work together to improve your room set up, by simple things like moving furniture, adjusting seating arrangements, and carefully considering lighting and microphone positions. Simple changes to classroom set up, and the management of the session can make all the difference to the success of your VC activity and it is really essential that you take a few minutes to do this.

Arrange a My first VC lesson with one of our colleagues. This will enable your students to become familiar with, and relaxed about using this communication technology.

Cancellations.

Please can we remind all our schools about lesson cancellations and issues surrounding this. At present there is no charge for booking the museum and gallery sessions for schools. However, please remember that the cost of each session is being absorbed by the education department of the museum involved and the Videoconferencing in the Classroom Project.

When you book a session, you should regard this as making a **firm commitment** to take part in that VC session. Remember that the teacher in the museum or gallery will have made all the arrangements, including reserving the VC room, liaising with your classteacher, in your school, preparing the lesson, and in some cases booking a freelance teacher or actor. All this needs to be paid for, even if **YOU** don't turn up on the day.

If you change your mind a few days before, that lesson and those people's time has been wasted, as it is usually too late to reopen the session and offer the VC session to another waiting school.

Sadly, there have been several instances of late cancellations/no shows recently. Please treat our museum colleague's time with courtesy and remember that we rely on their goodwill, and their time to support the Videoconferencing in the Classroom Project. Try not to waste scarce resources!

Videoconferencing in the Classroom/Global Leap will be introducing an administration charge to cover costs where cancellations occur without reasonable explanation or sufficient notice.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

CLC MANAGERS.

Please read the special advice for CLC managers on the website. You **MUST** be absolutely certain that you have identified an actual class **BEFORE** you book anything, and that the class teacher involved knows about the booking, and is in agreement! There have been instances of multiple bookings by CLC's and no class turning up! Please, please be considerate, and remember that other schools could have used these sessions. **ALL CLC's must test to Mike to check out the suitability of their room set ups, before they book a VC lesson.**

UKERNA

Since mid October the UKERNA bridge is now available for schools to use. The Videoconferencing in the Classroom Project www.global-leap.com is now able to use this facility, and has already used the bridge successfully to link some of our international colleagues.

During the initial introductory period, call costs will be absorbed by UKERNA, but in the long term a charging mechanism will be introduced.

Further details to follow when they are available.

October 2004 has been another busy month for the Videoconferencing in the Classroom Project / www.global-leap.com with each day filled with far end trouble shooting, telephone advice to schools, LEA's and CLC's, "My First VC"

lessons, Curriculum INSET and planning sessions direct to staffrooms via VC , school visits, museum visits, supporting meetings and direct input into various conferences including Nottingham and Slough.

This month we have supported colleagues across the country and as far away as Moscow, Turkey, Poland, France, USA. S.Africa and Argentina.

When you read this, Mike will just have arrived back from a conference in USA, and will have caught up again with some of the schools and some of the enthusiastic colleagues we have been working with over the last few years.

News of this will have to wait until next time.

NEW Newspaper articles please.

We must set a deadline of Nov 30th for your VC stories and pictures for the next project newspaper, which will go to the printers in December. Please keep them very short!! There will be very little room and we want to include a taste of everything! If you have a picture, which can also be included, these would also be most welcome.

Please send your news and pictures to newspaper@global-leap.com
(Longer stories and case studies can of course be put on the project website)

We still have copies of last year's newspaper, if you need copies for your staff room. Please ask.

Museums/galleries! Can we have something for the next newspapers from you too please!

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

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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 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