

# Videoconferencing in the Classroom

October 2004



[www.global-leap.com](http://www.global-leap.com)

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***This project does not represent any resellers of videoconference equipment***

Thank you for your continued support of the Videoconferencing in the Classroom Project this new academic year!

Interest in this project is growing and growing, from all over the UK and much further a field. Your school is very important in helping to develop and disseminate good practice. A school somewhere, is looking for your school to work with on a variety of collaborative teaching and learning opportunities. This newsletter contains details about several colleagues who are searching for a school partner.

A quick count back through my own global-leap desk diary for September 2004 indicates that over the last month alone, some 35 schools, CLC's or LEA's have received telephone advice from my desk, some 12 schools have received individual "far end" VC support, remote set up, testing or troubleshooting, and the automated test system numbers (IP and ISDN) are in regular use 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. Five schools or CLC's have received INSET via VC directly into their staff meetings, and 13 classes have received "My First Videoconference" sessions from my desk. Discussions have taken place and advice and support has been given to various potential providers about developing VC sessions for schools. In September, I have visited 17 schools, delivered one museum training day, and one multiple school training day. I have facilitated and supported International Multipoint VC planning meetings and VC activities between 4 pairs of schools, and supported 10 UK-France first VC links between classes.

This month, I have met and worked with many enthusiastic teachers, and colleagues, across the country, and internationally.

I know my colleagues, Mary Wormington, Phil Stanley-Berridge, and Tim Arnold have been meeting with colleagues around the country too, to offer advice and practical support, to answer your questions, or point you in the right direction.

Our hardworking colleagues in the museum gallery and archive programme have also been busy contacting many of you to plan your VC lessons.

Following last month's newsletter, lots of you used your School ID Code to update your contact details on the school network on [www.global-leap.com](http://www.global-leap.com) and this makes it so much easier to keep in touch with you all easily. Thank you!

Please enter your ID number in the pink box on the school network page on:  
<http://www.globalleap.com/network/index.php> to update your details.

In the interests of keeping the [www.global-leap.com](http://www.global-leap.com) network of schools that are ACTIVELY developing VC links and activities up-to-date, I will remove entries from the website that contain no "date" on the school/provider network lists. I will assume that these schools are not receiving or disseminating the project newsletters among their colleagues in their schools, or no longer have videoconferencing facilities, or the registered contact person at the school has left, and the replacement teacher is not aware of the project or interested in developing a VC programme. For the school network to be useful, it should be kept up-to-date, and your help in achieving this will be much appreciated.

Following Elizabeth Hearndon's request for a partner for her Food Technology students in last month's newsletter, we have teamed her up with an enthusiastic teacher in Bromley, Kent. We look forward to sharing with you their news as their project develops.

#### **Request for Partner Schools**

**This week I have a request from a school in Oxfordshire, who is looking for a partner school to develop a project for 14/15 year olds. The curriculum area is biology, and the school would like to share VC activities on topics including "The Heart and Circulatory System", and "Nutrition". If you are an enthusiastic biology teacher, please contact [mikeg@global-leap.com](mailto:mikeg@global-leap.com) for more details.**

**Another request. This time I am looking for a Year 4 primary teacher, who would like to share some books with a class in the USA. The American children are reading "Big Red" "I want a Dog" by Kahls, and "Where the Red Fern Grows" by Rawls. These are clearly books set in a US setting, but your class could offer to exchange a UK book to share with the US students. The teacher tells me they are planning to include a visit from a redbone hound, like the one in the story. Sounds exciting! Please contact me if this would interest your class.**

**I am looking for a particular, very enthusiastic UK High School, to partner a USA Middle School, for a whole school project.**

Your school should have a committed and enthusiastic head teacher, and supportive senior management, and creative and enthusiastic teachers. The USA school would like to work, department to department, on a range of collaborative curriculum activities.

The project would hope to identify funding sources to support activities, which might include exchange teacher visits. If you are interested, please ask for more details.

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## Museum, Gallery and Archive News

The Museum Gallery and Archive programme continues to be well supported, and we value your feedback on all your various VC activities to share with others, and to inform The Videoconferencing in the Classroom Project. Thank you.

**The National Archive** VC programme includes some really interesting stuff. Come on all you enthusiastic historians! Give it a try! Look on the events diary and book some sessions for your classes.

## Recent Feedback about some September VC sessions booked by schools:

### My First Videoconference

*"The VC event was our first go at video conferencing. In terms of content and technical aspect everything was excellent. My students (with severe learning difficulties) enjoyed it all but some found it a bit awe inspiring. We are planning a repeat event when we have done our homework of taking photos of the school and hopefully they will be more forthcoming in discussions. It was a good learning experience for me and I look forward to further & more frequent similar events."*

*Denise Sanford - Oakfield Park School , Pontefract, Yorkshire*

### Reef HQ

*"The students were mesmerised by it all. In fact we have been very lucky to have had two VCs with Australia. One, which was factual, and then the dive. Caroline our presenter was excellent. Her approach and relationship with the students was spot on and she was easy to listen to. Fred and Tom our divers were ".....wicked" as described by our students.*

*During this VC students of our club were allowed to invite a parent or brother and sister to try to "promote" our use of the technology. Parents were suitably impressed by the whole presentation and very encouraged by this in their children's education ".....better than just sitting and watching the TV"*

*I have used Global Leap many times now for a whole range of classroom lessons from all aspects of the curriculum. The lessons are interesting, interactive and accurate."*

*Lynda Wade - King Edward VII School, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire*



*"My name is Fatima Habib, I am the teacher in charge of all linking school projects.*

*The recent session of videoconference with PSB was technically perfect.*

*The audio and the video was clear and our students really enjoyed the session. They learnt the techniques of videoconferencing and got familiar with communicating skills. As it was the first experience for the students they were a little hesitant." Karachi High School, Pakistan*

During September, I have been visiting and supporting schools in France again. Schools in Lincolnshire are developing links with school partners in Poitiers, (a British Council funded project). We look forward to sharing their news with you, in future newsletters.

If your school has Project Videoconferencing Equipment on loan, please remember that we particularly look forward to receiving from you regular feedback about your VC programmes in order to inform the Project. I look forward to hearing about your September activities and also to hearing what you are planning for October.

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## Stories and Examples of Good Practice

Many of you will have seen copies of the project newspaper that we produced for Jan 2003, and Jan 2004. This contained lots of news and pictures about the variety of VC projects your schools have been involved in. The newspaper has been extremely popular, and copies have been distributed all over the UK, and all over the world, to schools and colleagues eager to find out what we have been developing, and interested to get involved in VC projects with UK schools.

Now we are beginning to collect material to produce a new edition of the newspaper, and we need to ask you to send us a brief item and possibly a good quality photograph, that would be suitable to include in the next edition of the newspaper. (If you have not seen the last newspaper, it is available on the website, or if you would like some for your staff room, please email me and ask for some.)

**The new newspaper will be printed in December, and will be available in January 2005. Over the last two Christmases, Tim Arnold and I have spent the Christmas/New Year period burning the midnight oil, trying to get items put together, edited, proof read and to the press. This year, we are determined to be really organised, and with your help, it will be proof read and ready BEFORE Christmas.....( maybe!) Please put your thinking caps on, and send us your news now. Your project and your picture could be read about and seen by teachers in New Zealand, Johannesburg, and Finland... (as well as Hull, and Maidstone....)**

**Please send your VC news items to me at [newspaper2005@global-leap.com](mailto:newspaper2005@global-leap.com) We will try to include a cross section of items to reflect the exciting activities that schools are involved in developing. Please keep the items fairly brief, as space is limited!**

If you receive this newsletter because you are the registered email address on the network of schools using videoconferencing, please make sure that you distribute the contents to your colleagues in other school departments. If you have received more than one copy of the newsletter, it is because you have registered yourself as the contact person at more than one school, or you have put the same email address into your school contact details in two places! Please update the school details to include a contact person at each school within your group, or replace one of your email addresses with a second colleague on your staff. This will help to ensure that news of VC opportunities is disseminated to all your staff. (Only put one email address in each space please). Thank you

Until next time.....

Regards,  
Mike Griffith.

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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) 208 426 2194

IP Automated Test 80.68.51.35 (recommended 128K)

To arrange a face to face videoconference test telephone: +44 (0)208 866 6036 and ask to make an appointment

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