

G & T website – Cross Phase Project

Background / aims :

Uniting through technology and providing linccs G & T pupils with ambitious and challenging targets were primary aims behind this project. Working as an editorial team and web designers, fifteen pupils from years 3 – 12 created and launched a new children's website in under two days.



What happened:

The pupils met for the first time at the CLC and were divided into groups comprised of different ages and schools. Working to tight deadlines, the groups reviewed and selected samples of work collected from the seven linccs schools. The sample range included writing, audio, photographs, illustrations and animations.

Over the period of two consecutive days, with support from CLC staff and the linccs consultants, they worked collaboratively, making decisions re. content and format of content for inclusion on their website. Thinking and working creatively on their selection of the work samples, they devised interactive quizzes, commentaries and films intended for a 'young' audience.

As the process evolved, the pupils demonstrated increased autonomy and ownership. Decisions were made democratically and at the end of the two days they prepared a presentation and launched the website to an invited audience of parents, teachers and LA staff.

Exhibiting skills of leadership, problem solving, technical ability and confidence the pupils supported each other throughout the process.



Impact / outcomes:

The experience for the pupils of working in contexts beyond their usual remits developed their confidence, creativity, life and social skills. Their adaptability when working with other learners unknown to them previously was impressive, *'It was an inspiring project to be involved in – the mix of children of all ages was very successful. I was most impressed by their efficient decision making process, how they cooperated together and their level of organisation.'* CLC Manager. The photographic evidence gathered over the two days indicated the high level of involvement and enjoyment the pupils experienced.

Teacher feedback highlighted the positive effect of the experience on the pupils, *'..was so proud to show and articulate her contribution to the rest of the school. I was so impressed with the way she explained the process.'*

Class teachers from linccs schools have utilised the 'outcome' of the website as a resource to further learning within ICT and the wider curriculum. In one school a teacher has involved the pupil in helping to instruct and teach the rest of the class how to construct a web page.

The audience at the well attended launch showed and expressed their admiration at the efficient and confident manner in which the 'team' presented the website and commented favourably on their achievements. *'I'm thrilled that ...(my son) was involved. It has excited and stretched him. He hasn't stopped talking about it.'* Yr 3 parent.

<http://linccsKids.googlepages.com>



Considerations:

The dynamic of the diverse age range was a major contributory factor to the success of the project. Opportunities for pupils to learn from each other in this way need to be actively sought and timetabled.

A broad range of work samples for the editorial team is essential to give full scope for evaluative skills and creativity.

Time and procedures for pupils to organise the upkeep and additions to the website need to be established.