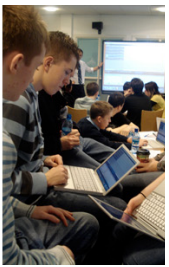




# case study



## ALL SAINTS TSUNAMI NEWS REPORT

See how years 5 and 6 from All Saints Upton turned the Production Suite into a multi-purpose news studio and reported live from a Tsunami-stricken resort. Contact the CLC if you want to do the same.

### SCHOOL

All Saints Upton

### SUBJECT AREA

This was a cross-curricular project used to coalesce and summarise the learning done in school that term on geographical and social conditions.

### DATES

The project required one day per year group and took place on the 21st and 22nd October 2008

### WHO WAS INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT?

The project evolved from a proposal from two members of staff who, as previous users of the CLC, were keen to make innovative use of the new production suite. Due to its technical, pedagogical and organisational demands the full CLC staff, the class teachers and the teaching assistants jointly delivered the project. This was very much a collaborative venture and, from the CLCs point of view, this was a key to its success: the project and teaching sequence was closely aligned with the short and long-term teaching objectives of the school, had a clear focus in terms of outcomes and was planned with the individual needs and abilities of the students in mind.

### WHERE WAS THE PROJECT BASED?

Following on from the planning meeting, a series of in-school sessions were run by the teachers to develop scripts, produce shooting schedules and gather resources such as background images. The classes were also separated into smaller teams and assigned roles: editor, presenter, location reporter, runner, witness etc.

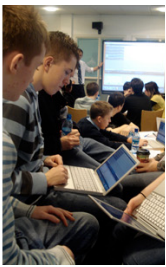
The CLC's new production suite was used for the production day itself: the room was subdivided into four work areas: studio, seminar, editorial and video-editing suite.

### WHICH OF THE CLC'S OBJECTIVES DID THE PROJECT COVER?

#### Support Widnes Primary schools in using digital creative media to support the curriculum

- *N15 Support the use of technology with the Foundation and Primary curriculum to improve outcomes for learners*
- *L1 Developing personalised learning, identifying and enhancing appropriate pedagogic practice whilst integrating new learning technologies within current classroom teaching.*
- *L2 Embedding ICT into subject teaching to enrich the curriculum, and enhance motivation and engagement of pupils.*
- *Foster creativity through the process of filming and teaching video editing to a range of primary classes*

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## THE PROJECT AND ITS AIMS

The project was designed specifically to extend the skills and training of teachers who had attended previous CLC sessions as well as to reinforce the curriculum coverage of the groups involved and introduce them to more complex video production skills. To do this, the project focused on learners working in groups in an industry simulation exercise: gathering and producing a news report and broadcasting to a strict deadline. The teachers were introduced to a new software program, Photobooth, so that pupils could be filmed in front of pre-selected background. They were also expected to use iMovie in a more sophisticated way by using titles, transitions and music in a genre-specific way. Interestingly, the nature of the day, and of Photobooth itself, encouraged a non-linear method of filming that enhanced the simulation and taught a powerful lesson about media production to all involved.

## HOW WAS THE PROJECT RUN?

The project offered a number of ways in which to use and evaluate the potential of the new production suite. In terms of organising the space, we first needed to delineate some working areas. Display boards were used to form four studio areas in order to control, to some extent, lighting and audio conditions. The larger conference desks formed a filming area that held the Powerbooks used for capturing footage in Photobooth. These desks also formed a reviewing and screening area: as shots were completed, teams were able to accept, delete or reshoot. Once footage was accepted runners were responsible for renaming files, saving to the relevant network area and informing editors of the file.

The central area supported eight laptops used for research and image location on a "hot desk" principle and to hold editorial meetings as scripts were redrafted.

Two rows of chairs in front of the IWB formed a seminar room where CLC staff ran training for team-members selected as editors. Once trained, they worked at the iMacs along the wall, relying on runners to notify them of completed footage.

There was a great deal of focused activity, discussion and movement throughout the day, particularly as various deadlines were issued and met. Ultimately, all pupils were involved in all aspects of the production process as many scenes were re-written, reshot or re-edited. The final hour saw some intense collaboration between learners, as the editing of the final report became a whole-group affair.

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## EVALUATION

The variable lighting caused by changing weather conditions in adversely affected the project in that a good chroma-key effect was difficult to achieve or maintain. When similar projects were run later in the term we mitigated this effect by using studio lights. However, the only reliable solution is to install black out blinds in the window recess. The use of the tables as review areas was successful but any nudges to the table during filming affected the footage in a similar way. Our next project used laptop/projector stands very successfully. We placed two Mac books on each stand, one as a camera, the other as an autocue.

There were similar problems getting consistent audio quality, mainly because so many pupils were filming at the same time. Location shots were fine as the noise counted as ambient crowd sounds but studio shots suffered. We will be experimenting with internal mics on future projects to see if we can limit ambient noise.

Feedback from teachers and pupils was overwhelmingly positive: a selection of comments is attached below:

Teacher: "It has been everything I expected it to be and more, the children are well engrossed and happy in what they were doing, and learning a lot, a lot in deed. The staff here and the day and the venue have been fantastic. ...My colleagues and I and my fellow staff that have been here before, we've always enjoyed the experience and we feel it is a great advantage for the children to have this locally and to use such a suite."