

I recommend...

Collaborative work between schools worldwide can be a rewarding and motivating experience for students and teachers. Anne Jakins of Sackville School in East Grinstead recommends several resources to help the process along



Flashmeeting - practise language and communication skills

Flashmeeting is a simple and effective way of enabling students to bring their international partnerships to life through videoconferencing. This one-click web-based application, developed by the Knowledge Media Institute at the Open University, is now available to schools. Expensive hardware is not required – just a webcam and a browser that has the Adobe Flash Player plug-in installed.

The application gives students an opportunity to practise important 'soft skills' such as listening, turn-taking and asking questions. After the conference, students can review and evaluate their performance. Flashmeeting also gives an effective medium through which to plan new projects or extend existing ones.

Flashmeeting is an easy-to-use application, ideal for pupils to practise their language and communications skills. This brings new opportunities for collaborative learning into the classroom. Register for free accounts via your local authority contact or by e-mailing **John.Warwick@stlukes.herts.sch.uk**

Photo Story 3 for Windows

Digital photography can be a highly effective way for students to communicate with their international partners. Photo Story 3 is a free piece of software, downloadable from Microsoft, which enables students to convert still images to video. Audio commentary and music can be added and users can append text to images if they wish.

Students really enjoy this application, which is simple to use and a fun way to

communicate visual images. This is a good example of multi-sensory learning. The final version can be sent to international partners as an e-mail attachment or posted on a video hosting site such as YouTube.

You can download Photo Story 3 at **www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/digitalphotography/photostory/default.mspx**



Photo Story 3 for Windows

Stop Motion Animator

For teachers wanting a straightforward introduction to animation work, Stop Motion Animator is a piece of free software available from clayanimator.com. This website offers extensive support on usage and the only equipment required is a webcam.

Animation work is an effective way of sharing ideas and enhancing communication in an international project. I introduced Stop Motion Animator to a group of SEN students, supported by a sixth form ICT group, and it proved a great way to develop new skills through peer learning. The finished animation showed jointed figures 'making friends' and formed part of a project on self-awareness.

'Keep it simple, make it fun' is one of the important guidelines for successful and enjoyable international projects. Stop Motion Animator fulfils this requirement admirably.

Download the software at **www.clayanimator.com/english/stop_motion_animator.html**

Anne Jakins is SEN Co-ordinator at Sackville School and an eTwinning and Learning Together Ambassador.

Crossing Continents: Connecting Communities



James Chuma was one of David Livingstone's closest aides on his travels in Africa. His story will be explored in the 'Bounty Africans' exhibition

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The Royal Geographical Society last year launched a three-year project called Crossing Continents: Connecting Communities. The project, which is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, aims to use the Society's unique collection of maps, photographs and archive materials to provide a unique insight into the world's cultures, people and places.

Over the following years the hidden histories of some of Britain's diverse communities will be revealed through research into the society's vast archive of historical materials, the development of community partnerships, touring exhibitions and educational work with young people.

Exhibitions focus on the Afghan, East African, Chinese and North Indian elements of the collections and are accompanied by onsite workshops for school children and the provision of educational resources at Key Stages 2 and 3, exploring and elaborating upon the themes raised within the exhibitions. The first in the series of exhibitions, entitled From Kabul to Kandahar, was launched at the society in January and is now touring the country.

Further details about the project and its programme of workshops and resources for schools can be obtained by e-mailing h.sanghera@rgs.org – or to enquire about hiring the exhibition free of charge e-mail v.patel@rgs.org

Learning resources target the Geography, History and Citizenship curriculums and can be downloaded free of charge from the Society's Unlocking the Archives website at www.unlockingthearchives.rgs.org

Music For Change

Music For Change (M4C) is an educational charity that promotes awareness, understanding and respect for cultural diversity through music and the performing arts in order to achieve beneficial change.

Based in Kent, the organisation's core work involves managing workshops (both one-offs and residencies) primarily involving young people within schools and other settings, with a strong emphasis on creativity and confidence-building.

In addition to the workshops, Music For Change also produces educational materials and resources, most recently the 'Reel Lives' series of interactive DVDs for schools, which contain a wealth of information about life in Sierra Leone and Kolkata.

The theme of intercultural understanding for a better and more tolerant world lies at the heart of all of Music For Change's work, and a M4C workshop often proves a useful addition to learning plans in Citizenship, Religious Studies, Music and Geography – and sometimes even in Maths and Science too.

The group's workshop leaders are a team of experienced and inspirational educators and musicians from around the world, from Ghana, India, Jamaica, Sierra Leone, Trinidad and Zimbabwe.

Music For Change can be contacted by e-mailing katy@musicforchange.org T **01227 459 243** or by visiting www.musicforchange.org



Music for Change develops intercultural understanding through musical workshops

The European Parliament: What's that?

The UK office of the European Parliament has developed a pack of resources for secondary schools in response to evidence that there is a lack of resources supporting the European Union strand of the Citizenship curriculum.

The pack, entitled The European Parliament: What's that?, offers information on what the European Union is and does, and explains how EU laws are made. However, its central aim is to show students the impact of EU laws and policies on everyday life and encourage discussion and debate so that students can form their own opinions.

The pack contains a CD-ROM with video clips, activities and teachers' notes, a DVD and hard-copy resources. You can download the teachers' notes and activities from the education section of the European Parliament website: www.europarl.org.uk To order a pack e-mail eplondon@europarl.europa.eu or T **020 7227 4300**



Working in partnership

The DCSF Global Gateway helps schools to find international partners - but what happens next?

Typically, schools want to start working more internationally, and want a global dimension, but they have a curriculum-based approach and don't want to start lots of new activities.

So how can the Global Gateway help?

The Global Gateway enables international partnerships to support curriculum development. This means the global dimension in the curriculum can be introduced through links with another school in a different part of the world. Likewise, cultural diversity, respect and understanding can be taught through such a partnership.

This does not mean all your work has to be carried out jointly with the other school(s) or that teachers have to start new topics. Here's how it works.

Primary schools

The mere presence of the partner school as part of your school's 'family' shows young people viewpoints from around the world simply and seamlessly. Some primary schools have different partner schools for each year group, addressing, in turn, basic curriculum requirements such as Literacy, Modern Foreign Languages or the geography of India and Kenya.

For French, schools have been linked with Martinique and Morocco; schools have used e-mail links to practise language and improve literacy in English. ESL pupils have been engaged through partnership links. Geography projects have attained an Excellence and Enjoyment component through school linking. Schools have engaged parents and the local community through international weeks

focusing on sustainable development, fair trade, healthy eating, drama and sport. The curriculum is adaptable to partnership work at almost any level.

Secondary schools

Through the curriculum-inspired project templates now available on sites such as www.etwinning.net and www.rafi.ki, secondary schools are building up a huge appetite for international work. Teachers can start and end with simple projects, or they can pursue professional development, plan and carry out their own projects, apply for funding for these and for planning visits. The projects have the effect of refreshing curriculum material and ensuring relevance. Their collaborative nature adds motivation and peer evaluation leads to higher standards.

The work also complements a personalised approach, enabling students to work to their strengths within a team. The Global Gateway has advice on how to find partners for language-based work, for Citizenship, Humanities, Performing Arts, ICT and Science and is ideal for Communications, Media and Enterprise.

For details about how this could suit your school, or how this would work, e-mail editor@globalgateway.org

From first steps, the Global Gateway partner-finding support service can help you identify partners and refer schools to sources of support in their local area. The work also attracts considerable attention from Ofsted and can lead to accreditation with the DCSF International School Award (see www.globalgateway.org/isa or pages 14-15 of this issue of Learning World).



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Further information



What is the DCSF Global Gateway?

The Global Gateway is funded by the DCSF and managed by the British Council. It's a website and free support service with schools all over the world signed up and ready to work together. You can have as many international partners as you like, and the site also gives you all the information you need to build the partnership and find funding for it from the various grants available to support internationalism in schools.

All the links and guidance you need are here, whether you want to do an interlinked sports tournament with Germany, Poland and Spain, a cultural information exchange with Japan, an ICT and science project with Africa or study sustainable development with a school in India. Hundreds of online resources help teachers add an international dimension to a lesson or teach whole modules from the curriculum in an up-to-date, topical and globally aware way. Lots of the resources are great to show on a whiteboard, and some of the projects to plan and enjoy with partner schools use ICT in an imaginative way to really connect and communicate around the world from the classroom.

Links for professional development show a particularly exciting aspect of internationalism for teachers and school leaders, who can study abroad and participate in teacher exchanges or foreign visits.

www.globalgateway.org



globalgateway

bringing an international dimension to education

Opportunities at a glance

Interested in an international link-up? The grid below shows what the various schemes available could do for your school, while the opposite page explains how the DCSF Global Gateway can help.

	Comenius Assistants	Comenius school partnerships	Connecting Classrooms Sub-Saharan Africa - UK	DCSF International School Award	DFID Global School Partnerships	eTwinning	Foreign Language Assistants	Connecting Classrooms Middle East - UK	World Links
Who is it for?	Schools UK-wide	Schools UK-wide	Schools UK-wide	Schools UK-wide	Schools UK-wide	Schools UK-wide	Schools UK-wide (primary and secondary)	Schools UK-wide	Schools in England
Activities	Assistants from across Europe	Joint curriculum projects with European partner schools	Cluster-based projects between the UK and Africa	Accreditation for international work in school	Joint projects with schools in the developing world	ICT-based projects with European partner schools	Assistance in teaching MFL from native speakers	Joint curriculum projects with schools in the Middle East	Bilateral projects with a language focus, including exchanges, projects and initial visits
Which countries?	Countries within Europe	Countries within Europe	UK and 19 countries in sub-Saharan Africa	All	Countries in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and Latin America	Countries within Europe	Europe, plus Canada, China, Japan, Latin America, Russia and Senegal	UK and Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Yemen	China, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Russia, Spain. Initial visits worldwide
Funded by	European Commission	European Commission	British Council	DCSF	DFID	European Commission	UK education departments	British Council	DCSF
Funding available	Assistants receive a monthly grant – no cost to school	Grants for project management, travel and subsistence	Grants for project management, travel and subsistence	No funding involved	Grants for reciprocal visits and joint projects	No funding involved	No funding involved (schools pay assistants' salaries)	Grants for project management	Grants for project management, travel and subsistence
Application deadlines	30 January 2008 (to be confirmed)	30 January 2008 (to be confirmed)	One annual deadline in spring term	July and December (full ISA); at any time (Foundation and Intermediate ISA)	March, May and October	At any time	One annual deadline (early March)	Four annual deadlines	One deadline per term
Further information	www.britishcouncil.org/comenius	www.britishcouncil.org/comenius	www.britishcouncil.org/connectingclassrooms	www.globalgateway.org/isa	www.britishcouncil.org/globalschools	www.britishcouncil.org/etwinning	www.britishcouncil.org/assistants	www.britishcouncil.org/schoolpartnerships	www.britishcouncil.org/schoolpartnerships

NEXT ISSUE

Coming up...

In the January 2008 issue of *Learning World*, we will be looking at modern languages and how they can be supported through international experience. Please get in touch if you've been involved in British Council programmes related to this topic.

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