



## Northern Grid / BECTA Video conferencing Project

### Background:

<b>Name of school</b>	Bailey Green Primary School
<b>Location,</b>	North Tyneside - Killingworth
<b>Size</b>	364 Children 14 Teaching Staff 8 Support
<b>Type,</b>	Primary
<b>Other participants,</b>	Governor interest in form of visit during Conf.
<b>Equipment</b>	Tandberg End Point
<b>Context</b>	Having seen the benefits of VC in business and education we were keen as a school to investigate its potential through use in the curriculum. We are currently working towards a 'Creative' curriculum and felt that VC may provide us with another vehicle in working towards our goal.

### What are your expectations?

We had no real expectations other than being able to talk to others in other locations.

### What are the curriculum drivers for your involvement?

We were keen to support Science, literacy and History - however, we managed to further our projects to include French

### Technical installation and set up:

#### Type of equipment used.

Tandberg Endpoint. We have been loaned this equipment for twelve months and with the support of the LEA have routed sound through an amplifier and have used a separate mic. The LEA have also secured an IP address to ensure security.

**Layout and location of video conferencing area.** We have and are using our equipment in a classroom. The equipment is wall mounted with a long lead for a moving mic.



During conferences we close the blinds to stop sunlight, we project the image onto a 79" IWB (Promethean) and sit the children in an auditorium style of seating.

**Problems encountered and solutions developed with the above:**

Procuring a static IP address was difficult as we had problems with the North Tyneside Gate Keeper. NGFL are still working on this to ensure our Polycom equipment will work. The increased levels of security still cause odd difficulties so we always let the Infrastructure team know that we are conferencing.

The speed of our Internet Connection also is greatly affected in our other classrooms. The LEA team have pushed our switches to full duplex to ensure speed. The LEA team also ensure that video data takes priority on the network when we are conferencing.

We had help from Video Nations and JVCS to make sure our connection was good. The physical installation of the equipment was done by the CT and the caretaker.

Northern grid gatekeeper registration was taken care of by NGFL.

JVCS registration, QA testing we organised this ourselves in order to VC with Global Leap.

We still currently have problem with our microphone which needs to have the echo cancel adjusted.

I feel it is important to point out that we had the full support of the Head Engineer for North Tyneside Schools and a very good contact at the Infrastructure Team within North Tyneside. I feel we may have encountered more difficulties without them.



## **Video Conferencing Partners: Florence Nightingale**

**Who?** The Imperial War Museum

**Where?** National - London

**How contacted?** Global Leap - Mike Griffiths

**Other communication channels apart from the video conference.** We contacted both Global Leap and the IWM by email and telephone prior to the conference. We also had to VC with JVCS for a QA.

**Other schools or other institutions.** NA

### **What you did:**

**Curriculum focus.** History - The Life of Florence Nightingale

**How the activity fits to work pupils are already doing**

As part of the Year 2 Curriculum children Study the life of Florence Nightingale and the Crimean War. The War Museum offers a session using artefacts and images that refer to the study of that period.

**Actual VC Activity.**

The education officer started by asking the children, "Who was Florence Nightingale?" and then continued to tell the story of her life and experiences.

**Aims and objectives of the conference(s).**

To further the knowledge and understanding of the children, however more importantly to show the children a new and dynamic way of learning. This conference was a totally new experience for the children.

**What the teacher / other educational colleagues did**



As above

### **What the pupils did:**

**Preparation:** Work with CT on Florence.

**During the VC:** Children stayed in seats unless asked to do otherwise by the education officer. The children were each given the opportunity to ask or answer a question. This VC also improved the children's knowledge of geography as the officer plotted Florence's journey across the continents.

**After VC:** Children shared the experience with their parallel class - discussing any new ideas they had learned.

### **Evidence of Activity:**

A condition of *Global Leap* is that we do not record the session itself.

### **Use of the personal portal desktop - myclasses facility:**

**NA.** As only one of us came to the training and the Polycom equipment has just arrived in school we have not used this facility.

### **Overall conclusions from the project so far:**

#### **Positives:**

Highly motivational for the children.

The ability to use experts in their field.

Cross curricular - Excellent for speaking and listening / discussion

New school links

Great for SATS

Has involved our Governing Body

Has been used by all ages



## **Negatives:**

Testing equipment can be time consuming  
Organising VC's can also take time  
Year 2 children took time to adjust to talking to a camera and seeing themselves on screen. The second or so delay was also a bit confusing to begin with. However - Global Leap offer sessions to overcome this problem.

## **What would you do differently if starting the project now?**

Have the extra equipment working in school / tried harder to sort out problems with sound.

## **Reactions of those involved locally and remotely.**

"This is the best ever! I have spoken to man in London about Florence!"

Y2 Child

"A fantastic way to share with the children how real Florence Nightingale was." "Artefacts that we could only dream of having access to."

Year 2 Teacher

**Staff -** Paul Rickeard - Y6 Teacher / SMT  
Dawn Bentley - Y6 Teacher  
Liz Cowgill  
Mark Robson - Head Engineer North Tyneside LEA

**Pupils -** Y6 - 40 Children  
Y2 - 30 Children

**Parents -** We contact parents with our intentions for using the VC and have had tremendous support. We have also had great feedback at parents evenings for trying new technology.

**Governors -** Very supportive and are delighted with the facility.

## **Future developments:**

**Where do you see your VC activity going in the future?**



This is totally dependent upon the funding of our Tandberg. We are delighted with the work we have done and would relish the opportunity to build this into our curriculum further. We have taken delivery of our Polycom unit but feel the whole class solution is more appropriate for our current needs.

We have been approached by the LEA to VC with another school in the Azores and we are also part way through creating a link via Comenius with a School in Ireland. This link will hopefully be developed further by a visit to County Donegal to work with the Head and Staff of the partner School.

As part of this project we have demonstrated the equipment at the North Tyneside ICT Conference to other ICT coordinators and Head Teachers. This included a VC with the National Space Centre.

### **Useful Links:**

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

[www.jvcs.net](http://www.jvcs.net)

Further information