



The videoconference for National Year of Reading theme 'From Page to Screen' was based on the novel "Tunnels" by Roderick Gordon and Brian Williams. The main picture shows students executing one of the tasks, which involved dressing up as characters from the novel filming a trailer for a film of the book.



A meeting of the minds: Learn how a group of Essex schools use videoconferencing to provide stretch and challenge to able, gifted and talented learners across a technological network.

While many schools use videoconferencing to reduce the need to travel to learn, it also plays a vital role in innovative learning and inter-school collaboration. Over the last three years the Secondary National Strategy ICT consultants in Essex, with support from their Schools Broadband Service, have worked with clusters of secondary schools to run virtual learning events that use videoconferencing as a means of providing stretch and challenge across a technological network to able, gifted and talented learners from different geographical locations in Essex.

The latest event was based on "From Page to Screen", the National Year of Reading theme for November 2008, and provided an ideal opportunity to explore how learning through technology could

enhance, motivate and challenge more able students. The use of technology was interwoven with teaching in order to develop leadership skills through problem solving, team working, time management, multi tasking and organisation.

The event modelled best practice in Assessment for Learning as students reviewed their own progress, were invited to identify the success criteria and given direction to improve as a result of the feedback they received via videoconferencing. Students were also encouraged to operate the videoconferencing equipment themselves, taking part in presentations, plenary sessions and giving and receiving feedback with the other participating school teams.

Donia Stick, Secondary National Strategy ICT consultant in Essex says "Events like these stand out as key learning experiences because students are stimulated by their new found independence, the fun environment and by being able to utilise applications they are familiar with such as video, blogs and email. It's a taste of the challenges they'll face in their future work life."

"The videoconferencing equipment was used in the planning, development and execution of the events. Videonations' technical

support team was on hand setting up and remotely monitoring the virtual meeting rooms; and they very kindly loaned us additional systems to enable ten schools to participate rather than the usual six."

Adam Feakins, Videonations Classvision team member adds, "We chose to install LifeSize systems because of their performance, value and suitability to the education market."

About Videonations

Videonations is a leading independent specialist in the supply, installation, maintenance and training of integrated High Definition (HD) videoconferencing solutions to both public and commercial sectors.

In response to the growing use of videoconferencing within education, Videonations created Classvision, a dedicated team who specialise in delivering supplier neutral solutions that strengthen and enhance learning and communication.

Classvision's unparalleled expertise has enabled Videonations to form partnerships with three RBCs (Regional Broadband Consortia) and build relationships with over 40 Local Authorities to provide video connectivity to in excess of 8,000 schools in the UK.

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About LifeSize

LifeSize was founded in 2003 by industry veterans and named "Videoconferencing Partner of the Year" in 2007 by Videoconferencing Insight. LifeSize's award-winning solutions combine exceptional quality, user simplicity and administrator manageability to make video communications a productive, true-to-life experience. LifeSize is headquartered in Austin, Texas with subsidiaries in Europe and Asia Pacific, and a network of channel partners reaching more than 80 countries.

For further information call **0845 084 3000**,
email classvision@videonations.com or video call **E164: 00440300756002**

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