



# Case Study Evaluation

**Arts Hub: Kidderminster**

**Project: Young Journalists**

**King Charles I High School**

**Delivery Partner: Pablo Productions Ltd**

# Overview

The 'Young Journalists' Project involved pupils from King Charles I High School, and sought to increase the target group's confidence towards communication and speaking and listening tasks using creative digital media.

The project included a series of coaching workshops with a group of girls who had been identified by staff as lacking confidence and ran alongside the school's two Deep Learning days on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2010.

The theme for both days centered around community cohesion, and the cultural diversity aspects of the school's PSHE and Citizenship curriculum, which the target group were tasked to capture on film. The film can be viewed at [www.arts-extend.com](http://www.arts-extend.com).

The project included capturing a school visit to Paris along with other UK places of interest and raising the profile of the schools partner school in India through sharing outcomes and documenting a school trip to India later in the academic year.

The staff team were given coaching in uses of digital media as part of creative teaching and learning and participated in four inset training sessions.

# Aims

- The project aims to increase the groups confidence towards communication and speaking and listening tasks using creative digital media.
- Develop skills in photography, film making, creative broadcast journalism, green screen and video postcards.
- Explore community cohesion and the cultural diversity aspects of PSHE and citizenship curriculum developing respect and understanding of diversity.
- Increase individual confidence and skills ability with digital media establishing a team of young journalists in the school that can promote other school activities.
- To increase the confidence and skills of the staff team when working with digital tools and to support the use of creative digital media in learning.



**“The project has raised the profile of community cohesion and diversity and has helped our international partnerships flourish”**

**Tim Gulliver, Head Teacher**

# Process

The project began in March 2010, when Pablo Productions delivered a series of staff development professional training events, in which the possibilities of using digital media as creative learning and teaching tools were presented to participants. This was attended by Extended Services colleagues, teachers and support staff from both King Charles I High School and a number of its feeder primary schools. Overall, the staff responded very positively to the session, and benefited by developing confidence and new skills with digital creative tools.

The project's next sessions took place during June. 22 Year 9 girls, participated in a digital creativity training workshops with 8 artists including; photography, filmmaking, creative broadcast journalism, Green Screen and video postcards. Following the sessions, the group's teachers joined the group to explore how they could support the pupils in the project, and also to encourage them to think about how the creative methods being presented could be adapted and used to enhance and enrich the pupils' learning experiences across the curriculum.

The young people thoroughly enjoyed the practical hands-on experience, and preparing themselves for their challenge of documenting the activities happening during the two Deep Learning Days. These included; immersive learning activities, Henna Painting, Bollywood Dancing, Dhol Drumming and a traditional Indian chasing game called 'Chanyadi' .

During the July Deep Learning Sessions, a small cohort within the target group visited a local Sikh temple, and another group travelled to France. These two events were also documented using the digital tools and newly acquired skills-set the pupils had gained from working with Pablo Productions.



**"I have always been interested in film and television and now I am directing and producing our own programmes, I am really proud of myself." Chloe, student**

# Impact

**In addition to the success of the project amongst the pupils, the staff who took part in the initial staff development training benefited enormously too.**

**23 teachers and support staff took part in the training session which developed their confidence and gave them new skills with digital creative tools. They were able to continue using these skills within their own subject groups, to the extent that they expressed a keen interest in ongoing support from Pablo Productions, to allow them to develop further.**

# Success

The two deep learning days proved to be a huge success for the pupils involved. They gained invaluable skills and increased confidence during the two days.

Comments from the Young Journalists include:

*"It was so nice to be selected, and I had a great time discovering and learning new things and skills."*

*"Before I was too shy to put my hand up in class, now I have had to interview staff and pupils which has given me the confidence I need, now I don't think I will be as shy anymore."*

*"It's motivated me to slip back into what I used to like doing." (Media)*

*"I've become more confident."*

*"I have benefited quite a lot, and really enjoyed it."*

*"I feel I have benefited by learning new things."*

*"I've never done anything like this before and it's been a great experience."*

*"It gave us a chance to show our teachers our successes and achievements as a result of the project."*

# Success

Regarding the cohort's levels of confidence towards speaking and listening, Diane Finley, Literacy Coordinator commented;

*"I have noticed that around the school grounds pupils are more confident towards me/other staff but not necessarily more confident in class. The majority still need to be asked directed questions, but will often now elaborate without prompting' "*

Regarding the project helping towards further developing the cohort's speaking and listening skills, a staff member commented that yes it had, and went on to say:

*"Pupils could work in a team and plan the assignment. They could work confidently with both peers and staff. Pupils were able to confidently interview both staff and pupils without embarrassment' "*

When asked about the project's impact and achievements to-date, Diane Finley said;

*"There has been a noticeable change in the confidence of the girls. Most will now volunteer answers. Some have now signed up to foreign trips that they may have been too shy to do before. They really enjoyed the positive attention that they received for doing this project. It has allowed them to interact with people they have not had contact with before, and they are now more confident when dealing with staff. The girls really enjoyed this project and would be glad to be involved in similar things again."*

When asked what aspects of the project didn't go so well/could have been done differently, Diane Finley identified the timing of the sessions;

*"The follow up sessions have been difficult so late in the term. Perhaps next time the project could be done earlier in the term to ensure that those involved see the final outcome of their work."*



**"The girls have really come out themselves are showing their potential we always knew was there." Di Hayman, Head of Year 9**

# Challenges

**The planning process initially was very slow as the project opportunity was offered to the Kidderminster pyramid of schools and although there was interest and enthusiasm, it was a challenge to set timelines and formulate plans.**

**A key member of staff at the school was unexpectedly off long term sick during the project and it took some extra organising supported by the ESCO to get things moving forward again.**

# Legacy

**The school has taken forward the digital creativity in teaching and learning and the staff are using their skills in lessons and at after school activities.**

**The student group have a skill set that that can use as young journalists to help promote school activities and opportunities.**

**The understanding and awareness of different cultures has been developed in creative ways and is more evident through the curriculum through PSHE.**

**The schools international partnerships have been strengthened further developing the profile of the school.**



## Contact Details

For further information about this project  
contact Paul Hawkins, Pablo Productions

01562 638 090

Paul@pabloproductionsltd.com

