

USER STORY

Bushfield Community College

Peterborough **Contact:** Chris Parker - Media and Communications Technician

Bushfield Community College is a small specialist Sports and Performing Arts college catering for Key Stage 3, 4 and Sixth Form. The decision to invest in a television studio was made when an alternative method of holding a college assembly became a necessity. The studio has provided the technology to hold virtual assemblies, produced as a news style programme and is broadcast via the school's Ethernet network into each classroom.

Whilst the assembly is opened by a short speech by the college Principal, the rest of the programme is presented, filmed, directed and edited by students and features interviews and footage of the students, whether it is the college play or sixth form assessments. It has proved to be a complete success, with the assembly streamed through the school so that 28 classrooms were able to login to watch, the students enjoy both the making and watching of the programme and it was featured on BBC Look East. Such is the enthusiasm and dedication of the students involved that, when the production of the assembly could not be carried out during normal college hours due to exams, they chose to work in their own time.

Chris Parker, Media and Communications Technician wanted to ensure that the facilities would be used by all departments prior to the installation but did not anticipate the huge demand on studio time by all the curriculum subjects and across all years. The studio has been used by PE to produce a trampoline course as a training DVD; English for creative writing, newspaper stories and to promote the National Year of Reading by having the Principal reading a book that was then streamed to the whole school; Drama where they will record footage, edit and then screen within the school play; Geography, Science and Languages for role plays and Chris is organising, along with the Design and Technology department for the students to design a set, as part of the course, that they can put the Chroma Key behind to be accessed via Windows. The idea is that the set can then be used for the production of a game show. Chris said 'I am so pleased that the studio is being used every day, that the students and teachers are making the most of the technology available, it has proved to be a worthwhile and brilliant idea'.

One of the other benefits that the studio has brought to Bushfield Community College is the positive effect it has had on students of all abilities and even those

with behavioural issues. 'We have had students put into mixed ability groups and it has worked really well. They don't want to damage the equipment or be kicked out of the studio. All the students appreciate the opportunity they have been given and, as well as enjoying the experience, are learning about responsibility, decision making and working as a team' Chris told us and then went on to add 'All the equipment has proved to be user friendly and I am still impressed with the effects it has to offer'.

Chris was also pleased to inform us that, as a result of the studio, the college was now able to run the BTEC Level 2 course in Media Studies and that they are hoping to set up an apprentice scheme with Virgin Media, who are impressed with the standard of equipment the students have experienced.

Students have been able to produce films that have been entered in The Peterborough Film Festival, which is an initiative set up three years ago by Peterborough County Council as an attempt to boost literacy skills through film and is a big part of the Read, Write, Inspire campaign. With Bushfield Community College scooping twelve awards at the Peterborough Oscar Ceremony in July 2007, three of which were 'Best Overall Film', 'Best History Documentary' and 'Best Sport Documentary', they remain optimistic for this year's Ceremony. Bushfield were also approached to film and produce DVD's of this year's Oscar Ceremony.

Chris hopes that in the future Bushfield Community College will expand the facilities with an extended Chroma Key Curtain, a sound recording studio and another camera; and concluded by stating 'We are a hundred percent happy with the specification of the equipment and the level of service we have received from Planet PC.'

