

USER STORY

Ealing/Northolt CLC

London

Contact: Alim Shaikh - Centre Manager

Ealing City Learning Centre promotes the use of ICT in developing teaching and learning practice. With the development of video in education, Alim Shaikh, Centre Manager, felt that the installation of a television studio was a natural extension of working with digital technologies, enabling young people to have more space to work and the use of professional broadcast equipment.

Ealing CLC has the facilities to enable students to produce a film whilst also teaching them the different skills involved in the production process. As part of the revised secondary curriculum students have to learn practical skills, decision making and enquiry, independence and working as part of a team. By rotating the roles such as research, writing, presenting, filming, directing, camera, sound and lighting the students build up experience and knowledge of producing a programme and using the equipment.

Due to the successful installation at Ealing CLC, Alim approved the installation of a scaled down studio at nearby Northolt High School, where there is a satellite CLC facility. Whilst also enabling the students to produce a film, the studio has a different focus, with a stronger emphasis on creating programme content rather than the production elements.

Both studios have proved a great success with students and teachers, with projects becoming student directed rather than teacher directed; mixed ability children working well together so reaching both ends of the academic spectrum and allowing a local consortia of schools and the FE College, along with the CLC's state of the art technology, to offer the 14 – 19 Creative Media Diploma from September 2008 and the ICT Diploma from September 2009.

Projects so far have included Student Voice in Northolt with mock interviews regarding the Building Schools of the Future programme with questions such as how the students would like their school to be and what technology they would like to be available; Business Studies projects run over a term where the students have to co-ordinate and manage 'Dragon's Den' and 'The Apprentice' type programmes; BBC Newsday with the production of school news

programmes made with classes of students drawn from ten different secondary schools; and a primary school Drama project where the children enacted their poems using Chroma Key technology.

Using Breeze TV, a youth online TV station, the CLC's aim is to allow young people to express their views on topics that motivate, interest and inspire them. The website, www.breezetv.net shows the work produced at the CLC's and offers young people the use of their specialist TV studios to create and produce programmes.

The CLC's want to encourage both secondary and primary schools across the curriculum subjects to use the studio on an on-going basis and as part of this, have run 30 workshops for secondary schools successfully getting both students and teachers accustomed to teaching and learning within a studio environment.

Alim Shaikh said that installing the studios had been a learning curve, but that he was pleased with the responsive support he had received from Planet PC post sales stating 'Planet PC made a good job of specifying the studio, it all works well together and is proving highly effective in motivating and inspiring young people'.

