

USER STORY

NST Travel Group Plc

Winmarleigh

NST Travel Group were established in 1967 and are now the UK's leading educational travel company for primary, secondary and colleges.

With the purchase of Winmarleigh Hall in 1998, a Victorian estate set in 50 acres of gardens, parkland and woodland, NST were able to offer residential visits incorporating outdoor and indoor educational activities. The centre is open from February to November and takes children from all over the UK from the age of 8 – 13 years old. This equates to approximately 450 schools and 22,000 children per annum.

In 2000, NST decided to invest in ICT as a response to the demands of primary schools who were struggling to afford ICT equipment. At Winmarleigh Hall, NST are able to install ICT facilities allowing the children the chance to experience technology the schools were unable to provide. Since then the educational product has developed to cater for many areas of the curriculum and now includes seven different modules, one of which is Winmarleigh Music Television. In this module, the children are split into groups of 10 – 12 and then attend four 70 minute sessions. The first session using 'Dance eJay' software, is when the children write and record their own sound track; during the second session they film their music video, which usually involves choreographing a dance routine or just strolling looking 'cool'; on the third session each child can capture and edit the footage, design a title and link to the music on a PC using 'Edit Studio' software; and then on the fourth session, the group split into different roles in order to produce a DVD where they present their different videos. The roles involve directing, filming, presenting and all the children take turns as the interviewee when their video is being introduced and played. All this is done at Winmarleigh Music TV (WMTV), which consists of two studios each using a camera, Newtek TriCaster STUDIO and TriCaster TBar. At the end of the visit, the school is given the DVD produced for each group, which they can then use at parent's evenings, for OFSTED inspections or even put on YouTube.

The Newtek TriCaster STUDIO is purely for the use of the children and Nick Klein, Education Development Manager, who responsible for the educational programmes on centre and helps develop hardware and software packages based on information provided from schools and LEA's, says 'Children love WMTV, it is the best product by

far. The TriCaster is simple for the children to use and the whole production process encourages individuality and working as teams'. NST have also used the TriCaster for Key Stage 3 SATS revision, where the children have written news articles and then presented them as a news programme. 'The advantage of this method of teaching is that it is not perceived by the children as learning, they don't see it as work and out of the seven modules that NST run, this is the most popular' Nick added.

During 2007 NST and PGL, an educational outdoor adventure holiday company, were acquired by Holiday Break, and they now form their Education Division.

Nick finished by saying 'We are more than happy with Planet PC and the service levels they provide. They have a personal touch and instil confidence. Planet PC put to shame all of the other companies that supply us.'

An advertisement for Winmarleigh Hall. On the right, there is a photograph of two children climbing a wooden wall. On the left, there is text: 'Welcome to Winmarleigh Hall', 'LightWave 3D - Printed Manuals £599 (Com.)', 'Working together...', and logos for 'nst' and 'PGL'. The word 'Manuals' is written vertically on the far right edge of the advertisement.

Welcome to
Winmarleigh Hall
LightWave 3D - Printed Manuals
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Manuals