

Innovative Geography Teachers Grant IG 04.10  
Project Title- GeoSci News Channel  
St Peter & St Paul High School, Lincoln  
Leader: Miss Lynsey Balls

#### Final Costs

Sanyo VPC WH1 HD Waterproof Camcorder @ £379 (Jessops)  
Sanyo VPC TH1 HD Camcorder @ £200 (PC World)  
Kodak ZX1 HD Pocket Camcorder 2@ £80 (PC World)  
Cam Link TP2100 Tripod @ £19 (Jessops)  
Lowepro Edit Camera Bags 2@ £20 each (Jessops)  
Integral 16GB SDHC Memory Cards 2@ £26.95 (lowpricememory.co.uk)  
Integral 4GB SDHC Memory Card £8.95 (lowpricememory.co.uk)  
DB-L50 Compatible Battery 2@ £7.95 (amazon.co.uk)  
Kodak Camera 1@ £45 (Staples)  
4GB SDHC Memory Card 2@ £6 (Staples)  
8GB SDHC Memory Card 1@ £14 (Staples)  
Total: £947.75 (inc VAT)  
£806.60 (ex VAT)

#### Abstract

The aim of this project was to bring the geography learnt in the classroom to life through media. Students were equipped with video cameras and still cameras and given the task of creating adverts, documentaries, news reports and news papers based around the issues discussed in lessons and those present in the media. It enabled pupils to apply their knowledge and understanding to real life situations, using media as a way of conveying their understanding in a student friendly manner. The finished media was published throughout school and used as a starting point for future lessons.

#### Summary of Key Findings

The main objectives of the project were:

- To raise the profile of geography within the school
- Increase the uptake of geography at KS4
- Assist the standard of teaching and learning within geography

One year on and there have been some noticeable successes and some areas for improvement.

Successes:

- The uptake for geography at KS4 is one of the highest of recent years and includes a mixture of both boys and girls of a variety of abilities.
- Teaching and learning has improved throughout the subject of Geography and has been measured through observations.
- The cameras have been used on a number of occasions in geography lessons, study skills lessons and for whole school events such as the writing and publication of a School News Letter for Conscience Week.
- A series of programs based on upcoming events. Year 7's - adverts based around the theme of 'EcoWeek', year 9's - documentaries looking at trade and the developing world and the whole school - creation of an annual news letter focused on a week long event aimed at encouraging respect for the local and global environments.
- The process of researching, writing, developing and producing the short documentaries was a great success
- A review of the subject at the end of the year showed many students said that they had thoroughly enjoyed the chance to get out of the class room and apply what they had learnt in a different way.

#### Areas for Development:

- Initially there were issues with compatibility with out dated hardware
- Updated hardware and software became too complicated for students to grasp within the allocated timeframe, however this will be improved with further opportunities for the pupils to use the equipment.
- A weekly news program was unsuccessful as students and staff were either too busy or there was a lack of relevant events to discuss.
- Some of the final films, although well researched and informative, were not fit for public viewing due to a lack of experience of using a camera with blurry videos and the inability to hear the dialogue.

Regardless of whether the videos were broad cast around the school, in lessons or just to those who filmed them it is evident that the students gained a lot out of the experience. Although they had not been broadcast the student's enthusiasm to continue recording and create better and more innovative ways to display their media showed that this project was very successful.

#### Incident Report:

The project was hit with several incidents though out the year. Although these had the potential to derail the project we found that they actually encouraged the project along a different pathway.

During the academic year the school upgraded the ICT network to Windows 7 from Windows XP. The pupils found this transition difficult as they had to relearn how to use new editing software and found that they had lost projects that they had been working on.

Further issues included the display and access of projects. The TV network that was purchased was installed but found to be incompatible with our needs. Also with issues over safeguarding pupils meant we were unable to gain clearance to display the videos over the internet as we initially wanted to.

Due to time constraints we found that the production of a weekly news bulletin was not feasible. We decided to refocus the project to target upcoming events as we have previously described.

#### Details of Presentations:

Pupil work was presented to the whole school by means of a data projector in the main hall. Other work was also presented as part of the school published termly newsletter, with many of the images and articles provided by the media team who had experience of working on the GeoSci projects.

#### Photos



The Media Team!



A screen shot of one of the Year 7's creating an 'Eco News' programme for Eco Week.

Year 8's working on a litter campaign as part of a clean up the school act during Conscience Week.



Year 9's taking part in an eco fashion show. They had to use recycled material and household waste to design and create fashion outfits for a fashion show competition.