

Creative Learning Project

Horn Park School Impact Report

Project duration: 5 weeks

Scheme of Work: Weather around the world

Students: Year 3 (2 classes)

Teachers: Zoe Crossland & Susannah Morgan

Practitioners: Sam Murray and Nick Cattermole

Scenario: Radio broadcast

The following observations and comments were gathered as follows using a combination of online surveys for teachers before and after the project and a filmed interview with a selection of students.

Expected outcomes/impact on learning

- Improved literacy skills
- Increased confidence
- Focus on creative thinking
- Better communication skills
- Engagement in learning
- improved collaboration skills
- Enhanced resilience

Unexpected outcomes/impact on learning

- Better behaviour
- Improved attendance
- Use of higher order thinking skills
- "Speed with which pupils became confident at using the technology"

Staff reaction and impact on teaching practice

- Staff involved in the project felt that their confidence in using ICT had grown considerably
- Staff felt that creative use of ICT can have a direct impact on improving standards across the curriculum
- Staff valued the opportunity to work with another school and to make "creative links"

"(The project has) given me more ideas about how I could use some of the software to cover other curriculum subjects"

"It has given me extra skills and other avenues to take with my teaching regarding ICT. It has given me the confidence to be able to experiment with different media that I can with me onto future projects"

"I found the skills that were passed on by the Tallis members of staff very useful"

Students' Feedback

The students were interviewed at the end of the project and reported the following:

"I enjoyed using the laptops to record sounds and jingles"

"I found plugging in the microphone and headphones tricky at first, but I soon worked it out"

"I recorded things that I had a hard time remembering"

"I like making stuff on the computers"

"It was hard to record our voices, because you had to be not too close but not too far from from the microphone"

"I learned how to use laptops properly.... and not break them!"

All of the students interviewed described the project as "Fun" and thought it would be good to use this equipment in other areas of their learning.

Practitioners Feedback

What went well...

- Pupils quickly got to grips with setting up the equipment and, by the second session, had begun to work independently on recording and editing audio.

- Pupils who usually don't engage in group work saw the value in sharing equipment and took some big step towards truly collaborative working practices.
- Both teachers threw themselves into the project and promoted the use of the creative technologies to both pupils and fellow staff (who often came in for a look at the project!)
- The project has further cemented excellent links between Horn Park and Thomas Tallis School. We have already attended a follow up assembly and are planning a school trip to Tallis so the work can be continued.
- The school is determined that this project be sustained and the headteacher has announced plans to develop it next year. He has purchased Flip cameras and we have delivered training to staff on basic filming and editing techniques so creative use of technology can be implemented across the school's curriculum.

Even better if...

- We needed more time! Due to prior staff commitments (school trip) we only had 4 sessions with the pupils, and although both staff and pupils made the most of this time, it would have been nice to be in for a longer period.
- We'd worked with smaller groups. Because we worked with both Yr3 classes alongside each other Nick and I (and the equipment) were split in two. In hindsight, I think that working with no more than 30 pupils will have the best results as sharing a laptop between three pupils ensures everyone gets a go!
- The project had been more integrated with the topic. Although the learning outcomes and use of new technologies was excellent, we feel that if more time had been spent on planning, the end product would have been better. I feel we could have been even more ambitious with our expectations of what the pupils could achieve in their finished presentations.

Headteacher's Summary

"In terms of the benefits derived from the project I would like to make the following points:

- From the inception of the project I was impressed by the quality of the coordination of staff from Tallis. This served to provide a safe base to introduce the two Year Three teachers to the project. Following the training of the two members of staff the project gathered considerable momentum.
- The selected project was to do with the weather. Although the initial hurdle was essentially linked to understanding the way to use the cameras and the software, children became used to this very quickly resulting in a truly cross curricular project where ICT was a key enabler rather than an end in itself.
- The level of autonomy between children observed during the last session was astonishing: for much of the time, adults could have left the room and the quality of learning would not have diminished - I wish I could say this for all subjects within the National Curriculum.
- I was delighted to see the way that some of the more troubled souls, boys in particular, embraced the whole project. With the deliberate omission of any names of children, for three particular boys, their change in attitude to learning was little short of astonishing!

"For the future, we have already held an INSET day with Sam and others talking adults through the process and then allowing them full use of the equipment. We have purchased four cameras for ourselves and they will be in full use as of next Monday! For real sustainability, we need better resources: cameras and laptops, but especially the cameras. Sam has offered to help us in applying to the LA's ICT Innovation fund: I can't wait!

Finally can I say that I love the way that Sam and his team worked with both my staff and the children at Horn Park - can we have some more please!!"

David Roll, Headteacher
Horn Park Primary School - "Working Together To Achieve."