

Case Study



Thames Primary School, Blackpool

Budding journalists get to grips with Podium

Thames Primary School is a 550 pupil primary school situated in Blackpool. With a wide range of pupils, comprising many different abilities, aged from four to 11, ICT co-ordinator Stacy Bridge and her colleagues enjoy creating innovative ways in which to make learning attractive to all students at the school.

The school was approached by Softease in 2006 to trial Podium in its beta stages and it was keen to get involved in the trials in order to introduce its children to as many new types of technology as possible.

Podcasting in education

Stacy Bridge, explains, *"We're always very keen to allow our children to experience as many new things as possible, so we were very excited about using Podium in the school. I also liked the idea of using podcasting in education and wanted to introduce my colleagues to the same educational benefits that I had experienced whilst using podcasting in the past."*

"Before Podium I was using one piece of software on the Mac and another piece of software on PCs, which made things very difficult. It was a complicated process to complete a podcast from start to finish. The children were able to make their own audio recordings, but when it came to taking those recordings and turning them into podcasts, I had to take over because it was just too difficult. Now, using Podium, the children are able to create, edit and publish podcasts all from the same simple interface – with hardly any input from me at all!"

Primary National Strategy

Stacy and her colleagues began trialling basic podcasting in lessons to help the children get to grips with the concept of this new technology and gain confidence with the new software. After a while, Stacy's plan to really use this to a great advantage in literacy lessons came to fruition during a journalism project with Stacy's year 6 literacy class.

"I planned a three week unit of work based on the new literacy framework, which included journalistic writing, and podcasting was linked all the way through that," explains Stacy.

Access for all

"In terms of personalised learning, podcasting enables all children to access the curriculum," comments Stacy. *"I have some reluctant writers in my lessons and podcasting allows them to put their own points of view forward and share their, very valid, points that they might not necessarily share in a writing form. When the children hear their own voices coming back to them from the Internet in this really professional format, the look on their faces is just fabulous!"*

To listen to Thames Primary School's podcasts visit www.podiumpodcasting.com