

Unique radio podcasting platform for schools launches in Norfolk and Suffolk

On Friday 1 May 2009 a unique podcasting platform called 'Radio in Schools' launches in Norfolk and Suffolk following a national launch in Bristol last March.

Radio in Schools is a simple podcasting portal that enables pupils of all ages and teachers to create podcasts in a safe, secure environment. It incorporates a wide range of familiar tools including collaboration, blogging and tagging. Users are able to share their podcasts internally or externally on their Radio in Schools personalised homepage. They can easily share and embed podcasts into their own school website to help engage parents and the local community.

The initiative allows schools to create audio online through the easy to use Virtual Studio; there is no need to download and install software, no need for expensive specialist equipment and no technical knowledge is required.

Melissa Thom, Managing Director of Radio in Schools comments:

"Radio in Schools is a fantastic initiative that offers users a safe platform to showcase their work. We're really excited about launching the Virtual Studio; it's very easy to use and we've developed it to make the whole process of making podcasts really simple and non-technical. By providing a new way of learning, Radio in Schools gives schools, teachers, parents and students to produce content they can be really proud of".

The initiative is aimed at infant, primary and secondary schools, colleges, universities and youth groups across the UK. Competitions, visits to local schools and radio station tours are all planned across the country for the next school year. The service provides a host of educational resources, workshops and INSET days. These are produced in partnership with literacy consultants, radio and educational experts and link directly into Literacy Frameworks and National Curriculum Learning Objectives.

The Larkman School in Norwich have been running the project in school as a pilot scheme over last week and will welcome Charles Clarke MP to the launch event. Following its launch in Norwich, Radio In Schools will be rolled out across the entire East of England including the rest of Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire.

Alison Clarke, Head Teacher said:

"Radio in Schools is a really useful tool because it gives the children a reason to go back to a piece of writing and keep editing and improving it. The website and the Virtual Studio are simplicity itself. Having a safe platform to showcase the children's work to parents and friends of the school is fantastic. Radio in Schools is a key tool in raising standards in reading and writing".

Radio in Schools is also supported by the National Literacy Trust.
Visuals/interviews available on request.

ENDS

Notes for Editors

- Radio in Schools is an independent, not for profit organisation For more details go to www.radioinschools.co.uk, call Melissa Thom on 0117 9005388 / 07765 240764 or email: Melissa@radioinschools.co.uk
- Radio in Schools has the support of the Heart radio network and media agency Nomos Media www.nomosmedia.com, utilising their unique AudioEnable™ technology.

