

Flashlight

RED CARPET RECEPTION

Lighthouse Productions held their film premiere at 'The Pacific Road Arts Centre' on 24th June. The evening was a 'glitzy affair' complete with limousines, red carpet, a champagne and canapés reception and a professional photographer.

The film crews invited their families and over 300 people attended including sponsors and those who kindly offered their time for each film. Madam Mayor presented each of the young filmmakers with a glittering memento of the occasion, an etched glass ice-block. Every school on Wirral will receive a copy of the four films.



Moving Images of Auschwitz

A small group of students from Plessington Catholic Aided High School have produced a poignant documentary about their recent trip to the Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland. They edited the footage taken at Auschwitz and included some incredibly powerful still images. Students later wrote and recorded their own commentary to add to the film. It was shown at the Wirral Schools' Film Festival and many people were moved to tears during the showing.

SATs site launched

As a result of an original idea from Lever Brothers for self assessment forms, the Wallasey Schools Science Consortium developed a series of documents for KS3 science SATs revision. The documents contained hyperlinks to revision sites on the internet.

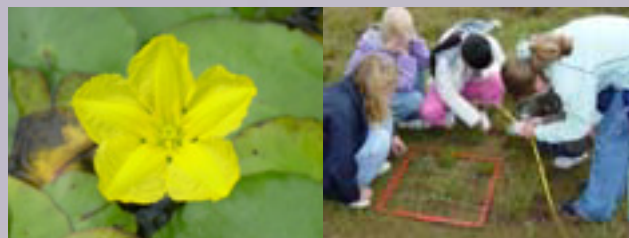
These documents have now been developed into a really useful revision website which is accessible at www.5schoolsrevision.ik.org. The site currently covers Key Stage 3, but has the potential for expansion to KS4 and A level revision.

Seashore Searches 2!

The Learning Lighthouse joined forces with Wirral Able Children's Centre to run a Gifted & Talented Summer School in the first week of the summer holiday period. The Summer School ran along a similar theme to one held in 2002 based around the North Wirral Coastal Areas. Seashore Searches 2 investigated habitats a little further inland which were affected by their proximity to the coast. 36 students enjoyed using digital video and still cameras, they created a website, compiled a database of species linked to mapping of the area, rehearsed and performed a dance using Soundbeam Technology (an ultra-sonic beam which triggers sound) and created art work to complement the performance.

An action packed week!

Four Year 12 students from Wirral helped during Seashore Searches 2 and learned skills which they used for their Nuffield Bursary Project during the summer holidays. The Project was to assist Wirral Rangers to map part of the North Wirral Coastal Park, identifying and locating rare species of plants which they mapped using the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software MapInfo available at the Learning Lighthouse.



Workshops Work Wonders

A series of very successful Secondary School workshops have been held at the Learning Lighthouse CLC. They include GCSE Dance in the style of Lea Anderson, Documentary Filming - the Five Shots, Dilemmas, Photoshop Elements and the final workshop of the academic year, Dart Trainer. This piece of software can be used in PE as a valuable teaching aid to analyse skills and compare with others using video. A professional cricketer from Sri Lanka attended this event and kindly provided footage which can be used for comparison of batting strokes and bowling action. Each workshop invited one teacher and four students from schools to experience the activities, so that the teacher has their students' support when repeating the exercise with the rest of the class. The workshops proved such a success that they will be run again throughout this academic year along with some further additions.

Flashback

WIRRAL SCHOOLS' FILM FESTIVAL

The first ever 'Wirral Schools' Film Festival' was organised in a joint venture by the Learning Lighthouse Weatherhead High School Media Arts College and Wirral's Gifted & Talented strand. A total of 27 schools entered the festival, which was held at Weatherhead High School and a compilation DVD of all their hard work has been distributed. The festival was attended by Madam Mayor and many proud parents and teachers who watched the rolling programme of films with the young filmmakers.



Virtual Learning by Video Conference

Pupils from Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School recently visited the Learning Lighthouse to video conference with Dan Pew from the National Maritime Museum as part of their work on Tudor Exploration. Dan Pew was a 16th Century sailor who served on board the Pelican, amongst other ships, with Sir Francis Drake as his captain. Dan described what life was like for a Tudor sailor and kept the children spellbound with his seafaring stories.

Year 1 from Leasowe Primary School took part in a Video Conference especially for younger children. The Video Conference was a fun filled session with a Pirate theme involving numeracy, literacy and social skills. The children enjoyed talking with a Pirate from Fort Nelson, Portsmouth and singing their favourite sea shanty for him. Everybody involved dressed up as pirates and the children used Logotron's 'Magic Forest' to create their own Treasure Map Game.

GIS is the Biz

St Mary's College used a Geographic Information System (GIS) package called MapInfo to study the development of New Brighton over the last century and make informed suggestions for its future development as a leisure resort. A topical subject! The students looked at thirteen potential sites for redevelopment using hotspots of still images and video.

A member of staff from the Learning Lighthouse accompanied a group of Year 10 students from Wallasey School Geography Department on their GCSE field trip to Castleton. Video and images were collected in order to create a comprehensive Geographic Information System (GIS) of Castleton village in MapInfo. The GIS will help further students to prepare for their field trip in which they collect data showing how the village is affected by tourism.

Year three pupils from Bedford Drive Primary School have also used MapInfo to study mapping skills. Pupils were able to follow routes around the locality of their school using images and video to help navigate around the maps.

The Learning Lighthouse is currently researching hand held Global Positioning Systems for use in Geography fieldwork including GPS blue tooth devices connected to a Pocket PC to complement the GIS and datalogging equipment currently used.

Watch this space for details of a 'Use of Technology in Geography Fieldwork' workshop!



Sibelius scores for GCSE students

Year 10 students from Calday Grange Grammar School for Boys made two visits to the Learning Lighthouse to use the music technology facilities. The boys particularly focused on Sibelius, a piece of music notation software which they used to write their GCSE composition course work. They were able to take their compositions back to Calday to complete independently having had the support of staff and facilities at the Learning Lighthouse.