

Clickview and the MLE Lead to Exam Success

“This year’s sixth form results, particularly at AS, represented a step change forward,” reports Clifford French, Head of ICT at Camden School for Girls. “I urge all colleagues to make the most of these two powerful learning tools, particularly together, to help students with their learning in any subject at any key stage.”

At AS ICT students produce a multimedia ebook on the information age, in which we now live, for a future audience in the early years of the next century. Textbooks in such a subject become out of date rapidly. The main resources Clifford French and his students use are BBC Click, podcasts from the BBC World Service Digital Planet and the free London *Metro* newspaper – London being the ICT capital of Europe, the *Metro* proves an invaluable source of daily information on developments in ICT encompassing the worlds of business, personal life and crime.

Most lessons begin with a brief video played through Clickview to illustrate a learning point and start discussion. Increasingly students can watch these at home through the innovative Clickview home service, with the link and associated materials being provided through the Managed Learning Environment – Fronter. “I often copy and paste supporting material from the BBC website into Word and convert the resulting documents to pdfs,” explains Clifford French, adding that he has obtained permission from the BBC to do so. I may also write my own summary, relating video extracts to particular themes I want students to explore.

One of the requirements of the course is that students should produce original multimedia components for their ebooks. These can be videos they have made or interviews they have recorded with Audacity and converted to mp3s. The exam board also accepts edited video as original material, provided that it has been edited rather than simply copied. Students are able to use the facility to *Save to Powerpoint or Intranet* to save relevant extracts from videos in Clickview as wmv (Windows Media Player) files which they then embed in their ebooks, using Dreamweaver. In a less ICT oriented course, both teachers and students can make extracts either simply as reminders or discussion points or to embed in presentations they are producing as part of their coursework.

Clickview is so easy to use that Sunday morning’s Click programme – or any other – can be on an interactive whiteboard within a couple of days even within a busy school environment with so many demands on staff time. Video extracts can be enhanced by relevant documents from the Internet or produced by teachers – or indeed added to by students. It takes a little longer for them to become available via Clickview Home but in the meantime extracts can be converted to wmv (Windows Media Player) files using the Clickview software and embedded in the MLE or a presentation or even emailed to students.

The powerful combination of Clickview and the MLE has made teaching and learning so much more rewarding for Clifford French and his students at CSG. “I can no more envisage teaching without Clickview and the MLE than, I suspect, Michael Phelps can envisage competing without his hi-tech swim suit. It’s a winning combination for me – and more importantly, for the students.”