

Report on the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the "Heroes and Cultural Identity" project

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During the three years of the project, a wide range of Information and Communication Technology was used by students and teachers to present their work and to communicate with each other.

A web site, created by the coordinating school, was set up during the planning stage of the project. An EU domain name was purchased www.ourheroes.eu and this project web site was used to record all the project events over the three years, as well as hosting a forum and voting area for use by all participants at key stages of the project.

All of the participating schools set up their own web sites for the project and many of them used their sites to present their own students' work. Web links were created from the coordinating school's project web site to all the partner schools' web sites. As a result of these multiple links, the project appears high in the list of rankings of many search engines such as Google. This has helped to disseminate the project to a very wide audience.

Students from all the schools in the project used a wide variety of ICT to present their work on Heroes and Cultural Identity. Presentation software, music and video software, animation tools, YouTube, web site forum software, web site design software, email and instant messaging were all used effectively and efficiently.

Teachers corresponded regularly by email and produced many PowerPoint presentations at both project meetings and national meetings.

Although some difficulty was encountered with the electronic voting system, this was mainly due to the fact that not all schools could get as much access to computers as they needed at the appropriate times. Apart from that, many students participated in the electronic voting and it was a

useful tool to provide motivation during the international voting phase of the project. Unfortunately, as with most online discussion forums, attempts to post non-project related material by anonymous users was a regular occurrence, so tight control had to be maintained at all times to make sure that no inappropriate material could find it's way into the discussion areas.

The level of ICT skills demonstrated by students from all the schools involved in the project was high and, in some cases, exceptional. There is no doubt that many students improved their ICT skills by working on the project.

The final legacy, which this project will leave, will be the linked web sites of all the schools. Although the project domain name will cease to exist when the project comes to an end, the project web site will continue to exist at www.stevenson.ac.uk/heroes/ and it is hoped that all the links to the other schools' web sites will continue to work so that people from all over the world will be able to see the tremendous achievements of our students over these past three very successful years.

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