

A NAVAL EXPERIENCE

Portsmouth's Historic Dockyard provided the perfect setting for the South East Grid for Learning's (SEGfL) launch of Making the News. Going behind the scenes at the Royal Naval Museum pupils mixed history with the latest technology as they wrote their reports.

The day started with a challenge for the mixed age teams. They were asked to carry



out research, conduct interviews, take photographs then write up and publish 30 stories before the 3.30 pm deadline. The children interviewed

Royal Navy personnel, a diver from the original Mary Rose discovery team and museum experts, along with tourists and museum workers, as they found out more about the history that shaped our nation.

There wasn't a spare moment as the reporters toured the museum and learned how ancient treasures are looked after. When the 'real' press arrived to take photographs of the event, the pupils posed in naval uniforms past and present. Back in the museum newsroom, kitted out with laptops and broadband connections, the teams set about writing up their stories and compiling their presentations ready for upload to the MTN website.

"Our pupils took to the project with impressive enthusiasm, and were quickly able to put into practice a number of skills they had acquired at school. They were thoroughly committed to the task. There was no need for a teacher to explain the importance of accurate reporting,

correct grammar, or careful image selection: the task had captured their imagination so completely that these aspects were easily assimilated. I was particularly pleased to hear the comment of one 11 year old after the project director had formally drawn the day to a close: "Does this mean we can get back to work now?" The 'work' in question was a number of stories that had yet to be finalised!" - John Gawthorpe, Headteacher, Mayhill Junior School

Making the News is a national, DfES-supported, broadband project that enables pupils to publish for a real audience. It provides online live templates that support the instant publication of stories and illustrations as text, digital photographs and instant video recordings. The application is available to all schools



at all times. It supports all areas of the curriculum and is relevant at any Key Stage as it

is so flexible. MTN assists teachers in publishing and managing news items, with links to safe news sources and image galleries. It is easy to use and provides an exciting challenge and motivational exercise for pupils of all ages and abilities.

For further information access:
http://kmi4schools.e2bn.net/segfl_portsmouthrn/index.htm