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 Success Stories

~ featuring ~

Throckley First School
Newcastle upon Tyne
Bringing Learning to Life

“
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introducing them to a service that it so easy to navigate. It is one of the best
purchases Throckley has ever invested in.*”

~ Victoria Frost, ICT co-ordinator at Throckley First School

Throckley First School Bringing Learning to Life

Victoria Frost, ICT co-ordinator at Throckley First School, explains how Espresso has changed the way ICT is being taught within the school.

Throckley First School was opened in the early seventies and is situated on the outer west side of Newcastle upon Tyne. The catchment area includes both private and local authority housing which gives the school a wide cross section of pupils.

The school has an ICT suite which houses 14 networked PCs and each classroom also has a computer workstation with the capacity for four networked PCs. This allows Espresso materials to be introduced to a whole class in the suite, and then used back in the classroom to support learning of other subjects through ICT.



Setting the Scene

**Throckley First School
Coach Road
Throckley
Newcastle-upon-Tyne
Tyne and Wear
NE15 9JN**

Head Teacher: Lesley Winlow

ICT Co-ordinator: Victoria Frost

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Number of pupils: 225 (aged 3 to 9)

Number of teachers: 10

Number of Learning Support Assistants: 4

Espresso products within the school:

Espresso for Primary schools

Espresso was first introduced to Throckley School when our head teacher, Lesley Winlow, witnessed how it was being used in our link school in Birmingham. We started subscribing to the service in September 2000.

Espresso - Supporting teachers and raising standards

Espresso is utilised throughout the entire school in all curriculum areas, particularly literacy and numeracy. Each class also has a weekly ICT skills session, with a significant proportion of this time spent using Espresso. Enthusiasm towards Espresso's exciting learning materials is so great that pupils regularly access them during their lunch break and after school ICT clubs.

Teachers use Espresso not only to assist pupils' learning in curriculum subjects but also as an invaluable bank of high quality resources that can be imported into other programs and used to bring classroom presentations to life.

The easy access to newspaper and television

clips that Espresso provides is fantastic. Teachers know that if there is something in the news that they would like to use for a class, they can rely on Espresso to deliver current and relevant lesson materials that range from full screen ITN video footage to newspaper reports from The Telegraph and engaging classroom activities.

Your Espresso – Reviving local history at Throckley First

The Victorian 'Your Espresso' - made especially for the Northern Grid – is used frequently at the school and has proved to be invaluable, bringing to life a unique source of local history and community projects. It is also the type of locally-based resource that the Government has expressed a need for within the National Curriculum and so is helping teachers fulfill teaching guidelines. The Northern Grid resource is named 'Victorian Times at Beamish' (a visit to a living museum) and is a tailor-made module that includes 40 minutes of full-screen, broadcast quality video, photographs and pictures from the museum archive that can be copied and pasted into presentations, or printed off to use away from the computer. The

resource is unique and because it is about the local area, children are eager to learn. We and other schools in the grid have found the CD-ROMs a great asset in preparing for a visit to the Beamish Museum, and for follow up activities. In short, it enhances the value of local resources and is equally valuable as a stand-alone resource for children who are

unable to visit the Museum.



Espresso - Making the best use of school budgets

The fact that Espresso saves us so much time means that it is excellent value for money. Teachers can go straight to Espresso for materials and resources and the comprehensive 'Staffroom' facility enables teachers to view how Espresso supports the National Curriculum and

QCA Schemes of Work with links to the relevant materials within the service. Saving teachers this time enables them to get back to what they do best - teaching. Subscribing to Espresso has also meant that we have seen a huge decrease in the amount of money needing to be spent on other software within the school as Espresso comprehensively supplies so much on its service.

Your Espresso Bringing local resources to life

Your Espresso is an exciting new service from Espresso Education, enabling Local Education Authorities (LEAs) and Education Action Zones (EAZs) to create truly unique video-rich resources about their local areas. Working in close partnership with LEAs and EAZs, as well as local museums, art galleries and libraries, 'Your Espresso' brings to life local history and community projects and is the type of locally-based resource that the Government has expressed a need for within the National Curriculum.

“The speed and delivery of the resources ensures that teachers use their time effectively and pupils are focussed on relevant tasks.”

**Mrs Victoria Frost,
ICT Co-ordinator**

Espresso has enhanced the way our school is teaching ICT. It has enabled teachers to use the resources available with confidence. Pupils and teachers alike are more willing to use ICT and try new things out on the computer because they are confident that things will not go wrong.

A child once said to me that using Espresso is like being on a mini Internet. This is true; kids can learn the basics of navigation and search facilities but teachers have the added assurance that they will not be straying onto unsuitable sites.

The design of Espresso has, in my opinion, given teachers excellent practice at using the browser bar and hyperlinks, enabling them to use the Internet with greater confidence and speed.



The future of learning at Throckley First -- Increased confidence, outstanding results

Pupils' attainment has improved in all subjects since the school implemented Espresso and I believe this is due to the increased confidence in ICT and the improved ease of searching and locating educationally relevant, as well as stimulating, resources. Pupils are both motivated and confident when using Espresso. They are able to search within the service and use it as a general source of information as well as using the resources to support learning in all subjects. It is one of the best purchases Throckley has ever invested in.

Contact us today for a free in-school demonstration:

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