

RUNNING NEWSROOMS



Running Newsrooms aims to have pupils practically experience 'the world of work' in a provincial newspaper through a realistic, challenging and dynamic business simulation.

The programme has been developed for Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 pupils with each Running Newsroom attended by around 20-24 pupils from Years 8, 9, 10 or 11 who work in mini editorial teams throughout the day.

During Running Newsrooms pupils are charged with the task of becoming mini-editorial teams (news editor, reporter(s), photographers, sub editors) and to carry out all the tasks required to produce at least a front page and two inside pages of a tabloid newspaper. Through the day the teams are:

- 'Fed' news stories, which are constantly updated and changed.
- Offered 'photo' opportunities to capture images for their publications.
- Provided with a range of other images.
- Given the chance to interview real professionals i.e. police officers, councillors, members of the public, about stories which emerge during the day.

The aim of these 'running stories' is to show pupils how newspapers gather and select news and how journalists have to constantly change their stories as 'the facts emerge'. Parallel with this activity, members of the team will be designing front page mastheads and creating templates for the newspaper - ready for their reporters to provide the copy and their photographers to provide images.

The second part of the Running Newsrooms sees pupils working on the completion of their newspaper's pages - with outside influences still ensuring they feel the real 'pressures' of a newsroom such as late advertisement needing placing or additional interviewees or witnesses arriving.

Running Newsrooms give pupils a real taste of the pressure, excitement, frustration and triumphs facing editorial staff working in local

newspapers today. It is designed to be of both stand alone value and also to interlink with additional activities delivered under other EBC programmes (Making the News, Newspapers in Education main programme and Stop the Presses).

The Running Newsrooms concept is based firmly on real training undergone by journalists in the North East at Darlington College of Technology and on simplified elements which make up the National Council for the Training of Journalists Proficiency examination. Business supporters from the world of media support the delivery.

Running Newsrooms reinforces the need for pupils to understand the importance of transferable skills developed in the classroom to a work place setting. Running Newsrooms also gives pupils the opportunity to meet business people in an informal setting demonstrating their area of work, and to learn what kind of things they do day-in-day out in their employment i.e. policemen, planners, councillors.

At the end of the day pupils are asked to give feedback or presentations in which they review their performance (i.e. as either news editor, report, photographer or sub editor) and also that of their team mates. For example how did they cope with 'managing staff', did staff meet deadlines (or miss them), poor quality stories or photographs, and how they felt they worked as a team.

Education Business Connections provides:

- An exciting new way to learn with the emphasis on 'hands on' learning and development of key and employability skills, transferable technological skills and enterprise insight.
- A pool of media professionals offering expert advice and guidance.
- Full programme organisation, including arrangements for venue, transport, and all related housekeeping aspects.
- Full technical support.
- Full post-event evaluation service.

'BUILDING CONFIDENCE IN YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH A CREATIVE APPROACH TO CURRICULUM NEEDS AND BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS'