

INCREASING OUR VALUE TO EDUCATION

"Your vision fits so well with our vision of how the curriculum should be delivered. Your principles match how we want to encourage more active teaching and learning ... Schools grappling to raise achievement, especially in the inner cities, are recognising that students need a different curriculum diet."

Michele Innis

Deputy Headteacher

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FACT FILE

- **DfES is committed to**
 - Giving children an excellent start in education so that they have better foundations for future learning
 - Enabling all young people to develop and equip themselves with the skills, knowledge and personal qualities needed for life and work
 - Encouraging and enabling adults to learn, improve their skills and enrich their lives
- **The British Library has a dedicated education team committed to making the Library a centre of excellence in source-based and investigative learning (research skills), driving curriculum innovation and supporting creative teaching**
 - 7,500 young people and their teachers visited the British Library to participate in workshops (03/04)
 - 70% of participating schools were inner city – exceeding the Library's target of 60% (03/04)
- **The British Library continues to enhance www.bl.uk – one of the most comprehensive national library websites in the world**
 - Overall user figures have increased by 37% from 1.82 million (02/03) to 2.5 million (03/04)
 - Visitor figures to www.bl.uk/learning quadrupled from 40,000 (01/02) to a forecasted 200,000 (03/04)
 - www.bl.uk/learning makes available 2,000 online resources relevant to the National Curriculum.

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SERVICES

- The British Library's workshop programme has expanded to include *The World's Knowledge*, *Reading Images*, *Meet a Writer/Artist*
- The Library provides generous advice and training services for teachers eg. INSETS delivered in schools
- The Library produces high quality innovative learning content for exhibitions and displays eg. creative guides and teachers' notes
- Online *Teachers' Area* makes curriculum links to the Library's collections and provides 2,000 pages of resources eg. *21st Century Citizen* funded by ISB – a major content-managed web resource designed to help teachers deliver Citizenship
- Websites for young people will be added (04/05) eg. *Sound Thinking*, *Talking Pictures* and *Texts in Context*
- *Discover, Question, Debate (DQD)* introduces a new interface to young people encouraging them to share their research projects and ask questions
- Learners also have access to the content of the Library's outstanding virtual exhibitions eg. *Turning the Pages* and *Collect Britain*.

INITIATIVES

- Funded by DCMS/DfES, *Texts in Context* provides innovative resources for learning English and studying the humanities. Eight schools are currently using historic British Library texts in workshops, museum visits and creative projects to create resources for other schools to share
- *Journeys of Discovery* is an annual two week summer school developed for Camden primary schools
- *Black Dance History* provides support for young people to research and recreate dance history and share their research on www.bl.uk
- *British Library Young Explorers* enables young people to research heritage projects and share creative outcomes through geocaching – treasure hunts using global positioning devices
- *Critical Friends* comprises a group of Camden teachers who apply accelerated learning methods to test and develop Library workshops
- Annual advanced *Masterclasses in Literature* are rolled out for 80 gifted and talented students as part of the London Challenge GATE A programme
- *Pearson Creative Research Fellowships* enable two artists/writers to research British Library collections, deliver workshops, produce creative outcomes and maintain their own webpages to interact with learners
- The British Library is constantly involved in research into innovative e-learning, focusing on dialogue and individualised learning.