



Press Release for Wednesday 11th May 2005

LAUNCH OF GROUNDBREAKING SERVICE TO ENABLE NORTH EAST SCHOOLS TO MAKE THEIR OWN NEWS

The North East version of a groundbreaking **internet news station for schools** that allows pupils and teachers to create and publish news items quickly and in multi-formats is launched on Thursday 12th May.

'**Making the News**' is a collaboration between **Northern Grid for Learning** and the **East of England Broadband Network** which facilitates the production of news items in video, text, images or audio which can be created locally within schools before being added to the Making The News regional site.

Teachers have the facility to sub-edit news items before they are published and the best stories are presented regionally and nationally.

Mick Young, Project Development for Northern Grid says: "Multimedia and broadband will be the communication mechanisms of this century and this new online project aims to improve that understanding and help unleash the enormous potential within UK schools.

"This development has created a one-stop-shop for news where pupils, teachers and the wider local community can access, research, create and share news.

"The world of the media has so much to offer education, in its approach to creating interesting, lively content, creativity and career opportunities in an increasingly important field."

Making the News also contains a range of curriculum resources such as news feeds (web pages that display headlines and usually a brief description of the news story), copyright- free resources and activities provided by project partners, including the Open University, Channel 4, Proquest and Newspapers in Education Newsroom, Newcastle.

The website and the technology behind the project was created by the CNM at the Open University, Milton Keynes.

A fun day of activities in Newcastle and Teesside will mark the launch. Mick Young explains: "Fifty pupils from schools in North Tyneside, South Tyneside, Middlesbrough

and Stockton will be invited along for 'news days' at the Newspapers in Education Classroom in Newcastle and Teesside City Learning Centre.

“They will be set the challenge of creating news stories in a range of different formats in just five hours. Prior to the news day, training sessions will take place in schools on how to submit stories to the site. At the Newsroom launch, students will take on different roles, such as reporters and editors.

“One of the more challenging tasks will be to conduct live interviews, both face-to-face and via the internet. Students will use the CNM's own creation, Flash Meeting - a cross between video-conferencing and instant messaging - to conduct interviews which can be then edited and uploaded to the site immediately.”

At present, Making The News is only available for schools on the broadband network in three regions - the east of England, the North East and the South East. It is hoped the project will be rolled out to the rest of the UK in the near future. More 'news days' are planned in other regions.

Northern Grid for Learning is a member of Codeworks Connect, the trade association for the North East's digital industries.

ENDS

About NGL

Northern Grid is the North East's Regional Broadband Consortium. It delivers broadband technologies and applications to schools and develops a range of high quality online learning resources.

About CODEWORKS Connect

CODEWORKS Connect is the trade association for the digital industries in the North East of England. Connect develops activities and initiatives that bring direct benefit to its members which are drawn from the entire spectrum of the North East's vibrant digital media and technology industries, including software, web design and games development. Connect is part of CODEWORKS, the North East's Centre of Digital Excellence.

www.codeworksconnect.net

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