7. Parents and carers: Celebrating good work

Increasingly, secondary schools are searching for ways to get parents more involved in their children's progress; increasing parents' awareness of what their children are learning in school is a key part of this.

Idea Students could collate some of their best work across several subjects and upload it to the Bookleteer archive, as a record of achievement for parents to see. Getting parents to print off the booklet will save the school on printing costs too! The booklets could be produced during one of the terms in which no parents' evening is offered, to ensure parents have an opportunity to celebrate their children's progress.

8 Ideas for using bookleteer in schools

Kati Rynne

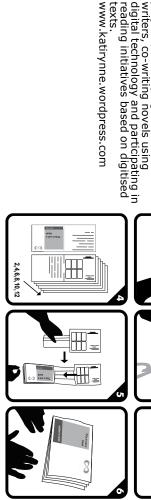## 6. Special needs: Personalised resources

SEN students in mainstream secondary schools rely on resources that are tailored to their individual learning needs. SENCOs, SEN teachers and learning support assistants (LSAs) often create customised resources for individual students' use.

Idea Bookleteer could be used to create personal booklets for students, focusing on spellings or a personalised record of letter sounds, for instance.
(See http://www.teachers.tv/video/2847, section 11'40" – 12'35" for an illustration of how one primary school gets dyslexic children to personalise their letter sounds in order to deepen the learning.)

The booklets could be archived and re-used with other students.

1. English: Real audiences

In English, students should be given the opportunity to write for real audiences and readers.

English curriculum 2.3 Writing – b Write imaginatively, creatively and thoughtfully, producing texts that interest and engage the reader. d) adapt style and language appropriately for a range of forms, purposes and readers
4.3 Writing i) Write for contexts and purposes beyond the classroom.

This means that students must have a means of sharing their writing with different audiences, and Bookleteer could be used for this purpose. Getting teenagers to write for younger children works well. Teenagers feel confident about targeting their writing at this audience because they feel capable of using simple language and creating the basic plots that children require. (A lot of teenagers find young children 'cute' too!)

Idea Secondary school students could write stories for local primary school children, and make them available as ebooks on the Bookleteer archive for primary schools to browse and print.

bookleteer

upload learning idea
schools children
parents use
Bookleteer
poems School
booklets secondary
writing writing
Students

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Idea It can be tricky to motivate students to write poetry because the production of one-off poems can feel a bit random. Bookleteer could support the collaborative writing of a collection of poems. By making these poetry collections available to the public on the Bookleteer archive, students should feel that their work has a real purpose and audience. Students should be encouraged to consider the challenges of 'anthologising' texts in this way, e.g. How is the order of the poems to be determined? How should the poems be classified – by theme/by style/by setting? How will a title for the anthology be arrived at? Whom will the poems be aimed at?

2. English: Collaborative writing
English curriculum: 4.2 Reading d) Meet and talk with other readers and writers wherever possible.

Notes & Ideas

3. English: Graphics-rich products
English curriculum: 3.3 Writing e) stories, poems, play scripts, autobiographies, screenplays, diaries, minutes, accounts, information leaflets, plans, summaries, brochures, advertisements, editorials, articles and letters conveying opinions, campaign literature, polemics, reviews, commentaries, articles, essays and reports.

Idea Bookleteer would be great for the writing of graphics-rich products such as brochures and advertisements, plus cartoon strips.

8. KS2/3 transition

Initiatives to smooth children's transition from primary to secondary school are gathering momentum. In their first term at secondary school, Year 7s are generally asked to produce content about their school for use by Year 6s. Examples would be: produce a booklet that tells the truth about this school to Y6s, produce a set of FAQs, covering the things you wish you'd known about this school before you joined it, write 'A day in the life at School X' for Y6s to read.

Idea Year 7s could write, produce and upload their booklets to the Bookleteer archive for use by Y6s, each of whom could select one booklet they liked the best, and print it off to share with parents.

5. Any subject: Revision aids

There is an expectation that 'Personalised learning' and 'Assessment for Learning' will visibly guide teaching and learning across the curriculum. As part of this, students are encouraged to take active responsibility for their own progress, including active involvement in exam preparation and revision.

There's a move towards getting students to help other students to revise ('peer teaching'). An example of how technology can be harnessed to structure this peer-to-peer process is here:
http://www.teachers.tv/video/22011 (section: 8'55" – 15'.)

Idea Students could create their own revision guides on particular topics of a subject at KS3 or GCSE and upload them to the Bookleteer website for other students to browse and print off for personal use. Students like their revision aids to come in fun formats like flashcards, games etc.; the booklet format would be more fun than a simple A4 print-out.

Notes & Ideas

4. Global Citizenship: Partnerships with schools in other countries
There's a lot of interest among secondary senior management teams to establish links with schools from other countries and creative projects can be a good basis for the sharing and exchange of students' work. E.g. Use of art activities to link a UK-based special school with a school in Sierra Leone:
http://www.teachers.tv/video/3214 (Watch from 20' – 23'43".)

Here's another example of a partnership between a UK school and a school in another country (India). In this case, video is used as the medium for exchanging cultural information: http://www.teachers.tv/video/29274

Idea UK students could upload creative writing or factual information for download in another country. UK students could work in small groups to create booklets on different aspects of daily life in UK. Alternatively, individual students could write and upload personal accounts, e.g. 'A day in the life of me!'.