



Woolwich Polytechnic School

Meet the Author Video Clips



Woolwich Polytechnic is a large boys secondary school in Outer London and the LRC is very much at the heart of this busy, innovative school.

We have been using Eclipse .net for a while now and greatly enjoy doing so but still have not used all its features fully.

Recently the Head of Learning Support came to me to book a research lesson in the LRC at short notice - for the next morning. She had borrowed our audio CD of Noughts and Crosses to play to our Low Achievers Project boys in Year 9 and wanted them to do some further research on Malorie Blackman and of course had decided that the LRC would be the best place to bring the boys to do this.

Luckily we had a free slot for our computer area so I agreed and whilst chatting to her about how she foresaw the lesson running I asked her if she'd find it helpful to show a short video of Ms Blackman talking about why she wrote the book – as far as I recall I think the answer was something like “ha ha in an ideal world maybe - that would be wonderful!”.

She was extremely impressed when I told her not only did I have such a resource but that we could show it on the overhead projector the next morning without any fuss or searching the internet.

As soon as the boys came in for their lesson the next day and settled themselves around the computers I spoke to them briefly about the book and asked them what they thought Malorie Blackman looked like - answers varied greatly apart from one smart young man whom had already looked at a photo in the back of one of her books! I then started the video from SearchStar showing the boys how I did so and their reaction was very rewarding - considering this can be a very hard group to keep on task all the boys sat quietly and listened as Ms Blackman explained her rationale behind the writing of this powerful novel.



Starting the lesson like this helped them to settle and when the video finished I was able to guide them to Ms Blackman's website so they could conduct further research.

A few boys came to the lesson rather late and it was very easy to show them the video so that they could catch up with their classmates. I was delighted at being able to help my colleague in this way and intend to further use the 'Meet the Author' clips on SearchStar to aid learning and teaching in this way.

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