

Podcasting



What is a podcast?

A podcast is a audio file which is downloaded from the Internet. According to Wikipedia, "podcasting is the practice of making audio files available online in a way that allows software to automatically detect new files and download them." A podcast should in fact be a series of broadcasts, or episodes on a related theme, rather than a one off event.

Why podcast?

Podcasting **motivates** pupils and enables them to have the **satisfaction** of broadcasting to a **real audience**. Podcasting also facilitates **authentic collaborative opportunities** develops **planning and organisational skills**.

It can be used to:

- ▶ Personalise learning
- ▶ Improve and enhance speaking and listening skills
- ▶ Motivate pupils to achieve high standards
- ▶ Increase pupil confidence
- ▶ Extend and develop new ICT skills
- ▶ Be used in a variety of curriculum areas
- ▶ Enhance school and community links
- ▶ Promote the school
- ▶ Be used as an "audio newsletter" for parents (anyone who subscribed with an RSS feed would automatically receive the updated podcast
- ▶ Assist those for whom English is not the first language
- ▶ Be used to provide audio notes, as a new approach to homework or to support pupils with long term illness
- ▶ Be interactive, with the audience being invited to comment or give feedback

What sorts of podcast?

This is as wide as your imagination - from story telling and poetry reading, to magazine programmes, interviews - with real or fictional people, plays, debates and discussions, musical events, or outside broadcasts on school visits. It can be used in virtually any area of the curriculum and can incorporate sound files which are already recorded or music or atmospheric sounds recorded by the pupils.

Want to know more?

Creative ICT can provide fun and practical INSET on podcasting or provide Softease's groundbreaking Podium software. Contact me by email or by phone for details; or fill in the form overleaf.

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