

The BBC School Report

Reported by Clare and Grace

Year 8 students all over the country are participating in the BBC school report in which they spend a day (26th March) writing their own reports, researching the information and broadcasting it onto their school website, which will be linked to the BBC site.

There are about 10 weeks worth of lessons leading up to the event so that students can get to grips with how to be a news reporter and what they need to do. In that time, a mentor will come from the BBC and talk to the pupils. The mentor could be a camera man, sounds technician, director or even a news presenter. Our school (The Downs School, Compton, West Berkshire) is involved in the BBC school report.

Our mentor was actually BBC news broadcaster Andrew Swiss who presents the sport news. We all asked him questions, in which he answered well and as helpfully as possible, which really helped our learning of how to work in the news industry. We have also had 8 lessons with news presenter Huw Edwards who taught us on DVD about broadcasting, researching and writing. This was all filmed and made into a short film which we watched during the lessons we had after school on Wednesdays with our teacher Miss Blakeman. Miss

Strange, another teacher who works with us commented on the BBC report. She said: 'I'm really glad that I'm working on the BBC news report because it's wonderful to work with such intelligent and motivated pupils. Also, I think that the project is really inspiring and helps promote media to young adults.'

All the students involved in the BBC news report are working hard and are communicating really well with one another as we mostly work in groups of 2 or more. Two of the pupils working on the BBC report have commented, Alex and Dom. Alex said: 'I'm enjoying working on the project and it's a great experience learning about working in a news environment.'. Dom said: 'I've learnt that the BBC has a lot of stress when making the news and that journalism is a great job.' The news report also allows us to use a video camera, so we can take photos and videos of the places we are reporting on. We have learnt a range of skills whilst working on the news report and possibly even considered jobs in this kind of work and the BBC school report has clearly been a roaring success so far- bring on the big day 26th March!
