

**Our vision for using ICT:
"IT's NOT about the TECHNOLOGY,
it is about the LEARNING"**

Using Liminal Spaces for Web Collaboration Flat Classroom Project (FCP)

Case Study by Sarwat Siddiqui (Leading Teacher) &
Dr Katya Toneva (Project Manager)

Adviser (Liminal Spaces): Dr John Cuthell





Visit our websites

- www.flatclassroomproject.net
- www.digiteen.org
- www.eracismproject.org
- www.netgened.org
- www.flatclassroomconference.com

What is a Flat Classroom®?

The concept of a 'flat classroom' is based on the constructivist principle of a multi-modal learning environment that is student-centered and a level playing field for teacher to student and student to teacher interaction.

Read our Book!

Released January 2012, *Flattening Classrooms, Engaging Minds: Move to Global Collaboration One Step at a Time*. Read more about what people are saying, see how you can purchase the book, and find out who to connect with and learn more! <http://flatclassroombook.com>

What is the Flat Classroom® Project?

The [Flat Classroom® Project](http://www.flatclassroomproject.net) is a global collaborative project that joins together middle and senior high school students. This project is part of the emerging trend in internationally-aware schools to embrace a holistic and constructivist educational approach to work collaboratively with others around the world in order to create students who are competitive and globally-minded. The project was co-founded by

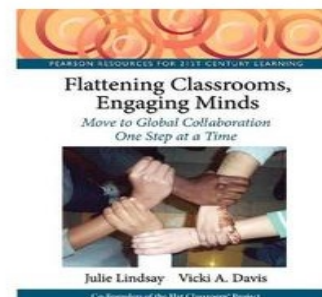
SEARCH INSIDE!™

Flat Classroom Project

<http://www.flatclassroomproject.org/About>

Table of Contents

- [Visit our websites](#)
- [What is a Flat Classroom®?](#)
- [Read our Book!](#)
- [What is the Flat Classroom® Project?](#)
- [Flat Classroom Conference and Events](#)
- [Opening to the Flat Classroom® Conference, January 2009](#)
- [Awards and Recognitions](#)
- [Selected Awards and Featured Events](#)
- [Associated projects and links](#)



During the first term of 2011/12 academic year, the International Community School, London took part in the global Flat Classroom Project that uses web 2.0 technology to join-up students from around the world.

The idea is to “flatten” the classroom walls so students can communicate and work with their peers online, across the world.

The school took part in the project on a particular topic: “How ICT could improve people’s lives”. This was linked to the English curriculum. The idea was that students could develop their English language proficiency and academic language skills through researching, collecting, analysing, evaluating, reporting and presenting information via the virtual Flat Classroom.

The required final product was a video storyboard on the project topic.

Why consider the potential of innovative technologies that support language development and collaborative learning?

- New technologies can be powerful tools for using and acquiring language skills
- We need to prepare our students to compete in a new global economy
- The nature of work is changing.
- We need to prepare our students to be effective 21st Century citizens.



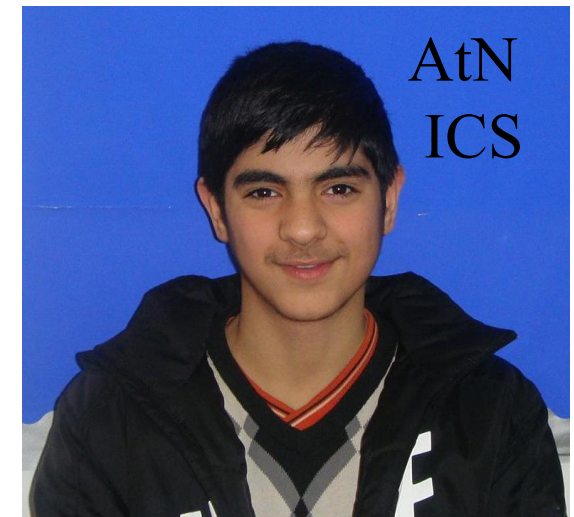
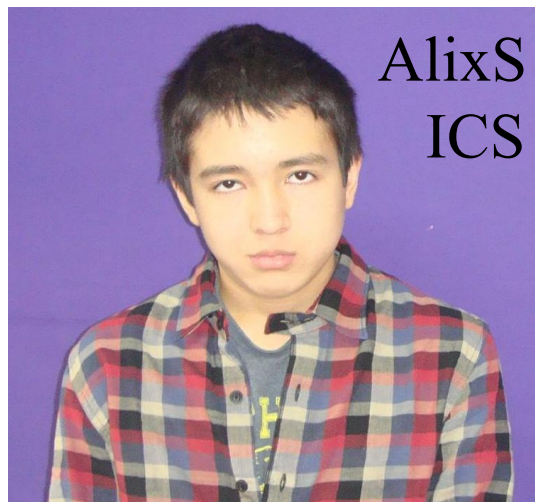
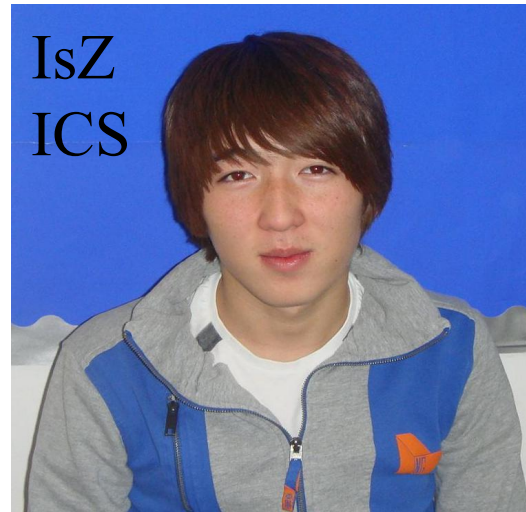
Our FCP aims:



- Transform the learning environment into an inspirational learning space where students interact, create, collaborate and build up knowledge whilst using language for these different purposes.
- Develop students' skills of cooperation, communication, collaboration and competition, and their use of topic vocabulary.
- Introduce your students to global communities with similar interests and provide the opportunity for them to communicate and collaborate.



ICS FCP Students:



The teacher's and students' reflection on the project development:

http://flatclassroomproject.ning.com/group/ics-london-dppz?xg_source=activity

Liminality

The Flatclassroom processes are constantly evolving, both as available technologies change, and as participants become more adept at acting within and across the zones of liminal space.

For example, the students needed to contribute to wiki spaces to introduce themselves and to plan their projects. They needed to use Flatclassroom Ning space to share examples, to communicate with other Flatclassroom students across the world and to provide peer support and feedback.

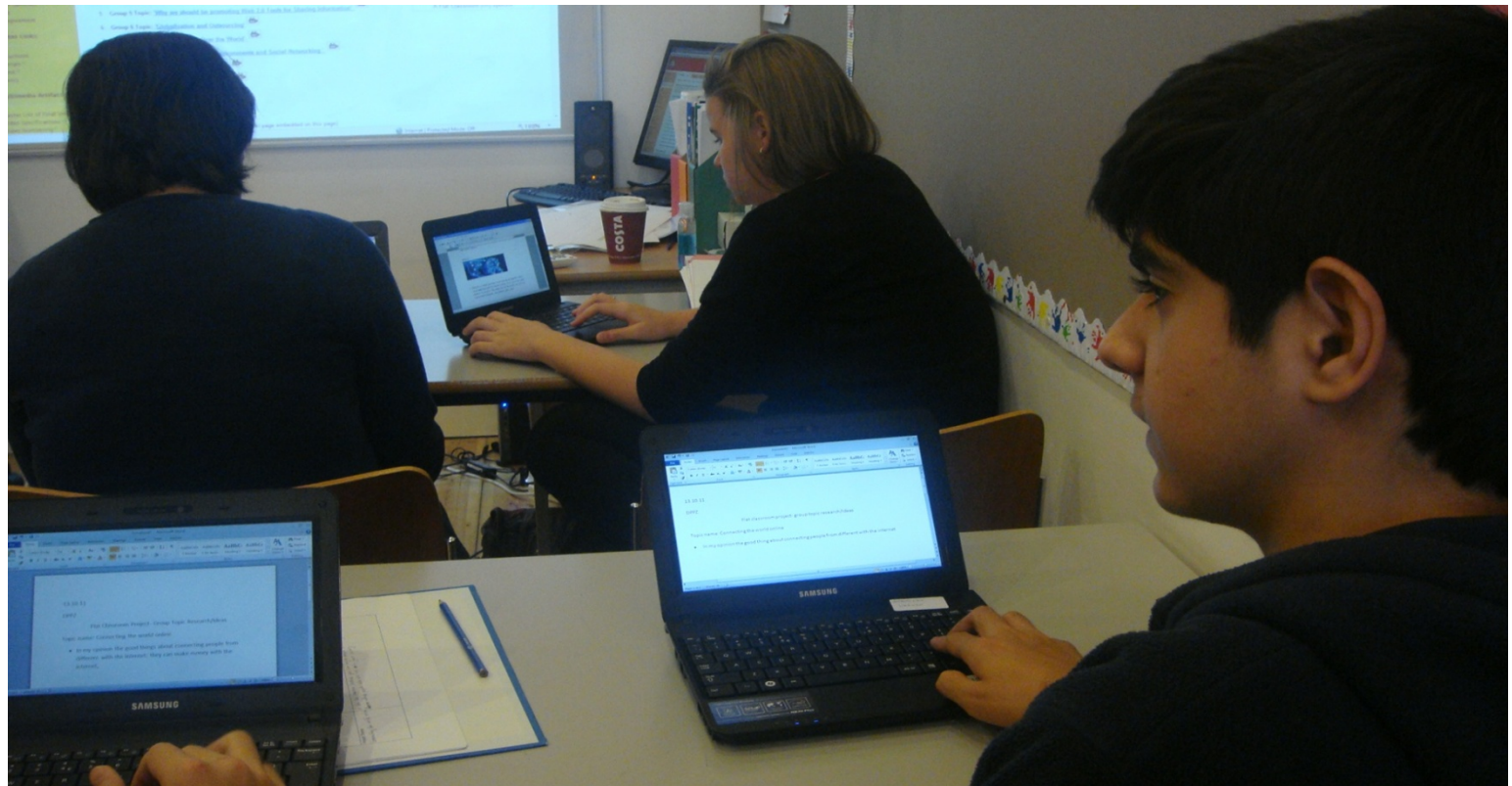


Links to ICS students' final work are published at the
Project Wiki:

<http://fcp11-3.flatclassroomproject.org/ICS+-+London>

For example, please watch a student's video storyboard:

<http://flatclassroomproject.ning.com/video/connecting-people-everywhere-and-anytime-by-alixs-ics>



21st Century Learning Skills



The students needed to understand the principles of working online and to adopt new skills and behaviours, including skills for online communication, collaboration and networking. The project required understanding of security and copyright issues as well.

The students have found these demands much more challenging than the actual development of the final project product (video storyboards presenting their topics).

Thank you for your interest!

We are happy to take any questions.



Image credit:

- <http://www.thinkstockphotos.co.uk>
- <http://www.flickr.com/commons>