

## **7 Up Magazine 2007**

In the summer term 2007 we had an activities week for the first time. I organised the production of a "7 Up" magazine for the P7 pupils by a group of S1 pupils. Classes still ran so I could extract pupils when needed. Some pupils were heavily involved in other activities so were unable to volunteer for this project. Activities week will probably run differently next year so I will have to adapt to that change.

### **Ideas that I think led to its success**

- Get other staff involved too. Our Librarian was very involved and gave us a home in the Library for Activities Week. The group also got help from IT staff, an English teacher and a Graphics teacher.
- Give the pupils space to make decisions so that they own it. They were given the task, a budget and a deadline and asked to co-operate to produce the magazine. We brainstormed ideas for the content and pupils chose which jobs they wanted to do.
- Allow lots to contribute and select the editors carefully. Our editors had to be prepared to spend some of their own time finishing it off after activities week.
- Our Librarian suggested putting all the extra material on the school website which meant they didn't feel their work was wasted even if it wasn't in the magazine. We gave all who took part a launch party with certificates and a copy of the magazine to show we appreciated their work.
- Make sure you have back-up/advice for the computer program you use.
- Involve the feeder primaries. We emailed Primary Head Teachers asking the P7s to send in their questions for the problem page. We got feedback from the Primaries after they had been given the magazine too.
- Get feedback from pupils involved after completion of the magazine.

### **Things I would do differently next time.**

- I wasn't very happy about using Publisher as it seemed to have a lot of problems (eg some work didn't save) and the number of pages had to be decided at the start.
- I would check which primary schools participants came from as 4 of the 6 editors were from one primary school. I hadn't realised that as they were in different S1 classes.
- I would think carefully about the size of the group and might make it a little smaller.
- I would try to issue the magazine at a different time. They got it with their induction pack when they came for their visit. I think it would be better if they got it before their visit. Perhaps it could be given out by the S1s and they could explain how they made it. It was also difficult for PT who gets Publisher documents ready for printing and for office staff as they also had the school newsletter to prepare for the same date.