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Foreword – Stratford City Education Project

Stratford City Education Project aims to ensure all young people of Newham are informed of the regeneration employment opportunities in their borough. This is done through young people accessing relevant learning resources, engaging with employers that develops their entrepreneurial flair and inspire them to fulfil their potential and address the economic well being agenda.

The Stratford City Education project seeks to use the development of Stratford City to increase the awareness of young people of:

- The regeneration of Stratford, in particular Stratford City, the Olympic Village and the Olympic Park
- The future employment opportunities that will be created over the next 10 years, in particular in construction, retail and in the commercial sector
- Opportunities in the world of work and related sectors of employment
- Their own potential and economic well being

The key aims of the project are to:

- Involve key employers in developing a range of educational resources that are transferable across curriculum areas
- Embed these resources within the curriculum to enrich and inspire the learning experience of young people
- Raise self confidence and aspirations among young people

Forest Gate Community School – Context

Forest Gate Community School is a chosen partner working with the Stratford City Education Project to develop and pilot these curriculum resources and to encourage young people to explore opportunities and pathways in the world of work.

Forest Gate Community School is involved in the Building Schools For The Future program due to commence in Summer 2009. As part of the program students were consulted on their learning experiences and this consultation is embedded in the Classroom for the future project. In addition, Lend Lease are constructing a new school in Stratford, East London and were interested in investigating young peoples views on their current classrooms and their ideal classrooms. The project was run in conjunction with Lend Lease over four sessions with Year 8 & Year 9 students.

Project Aims

- (a) Enrich the learning experience of young people to achieve the highest possible standard of consultation
- (b) Engage young people in dialogue with outside businesses and agencies
- (c) Raise expectations and self confidence to seize the opportunities arising through regeneration in Newham.

All students worked in small groups to investigate their local area and how it was changing then came together as class groups and worked collaboratively.

Project Outcomes

- All students are aware of The Athletes Village and understand where it is being built
- All students understand what Building Schools For The Future is
- All students are able to describe their ideal classroom
- All students contributed to a presentation on their ideal classroom
- Most students used creativity to express their ideas
- Most students explained the key features of their ideal classroom
- Most students were involved in dialogue with developers
- Most students presented to developers on their ideal classroom
- Some students produced plans of their ideal classroom
- Some students linked their ideal classrooms with their preferred learning styles

Resource development validated by Forest Gate Community School teachers and tailored to their curriculum delivery. The sessions were managed by the Stratford City Education Development Officer who ensured that the resources were delivered consistently. The project encouraged cross curricular work and met curriculum standards in PHSE, Citizenship, Literacy, Design and Art.

Uptake One class of Year 8 & one class of Year 9 students at Forest Gate Community School were involved in the project.

Wider dissemination through existing teacher networks, events and through websites such as NEBP, TES and Stratford City Education Project website. Resources from the project were displayed at Stratford City Education showcase on 26th June 2009. A film was made of the project for wider dissemination.

Session 1

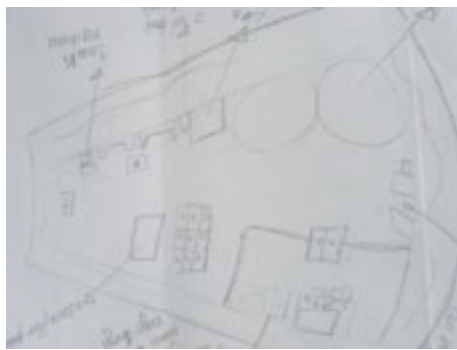
The project was introduced by the Stratford City Education Development Officer to the class by talking about the new academy that is being built by Lend Lease at the Athletes Village site. Examples of Stratford City projects, including student films, and other projects that have used student voice were shown to allow the students to realise how important the project was and how seriously their views would be taken.

Chris Grocock, Lend Lease, introduced the new school in more detail, using a presentation to show the students what was happening at the Athletes Village and the initial plans for the new school. These plans included the format of it and architectural drawings of the new school including the shape of the classrooms. This allowed the students to understand what the school would look like and helped to set the scene.

The Stratford City Education Development Officer then spoke about the links between the project and "Building Schools For The Future", a scheme that is running at Forest Gate Community School, and is due to start in Summer 2009. The links to the student's school made the project more relevant.

Before the students started designing their ideal classroom they looked at a range of activities about how to learn. These activities were designed as part of the consultation process for Building Schools For The Future, as well as allowing the students to generate ideas for their ideal classrooms. The young people looked at their favourite lessons, generating key points in their groups which showed the common features of the lessons. The second activity focused on students looking at their favourite ways of learning, common themes included group and project work. These two exercises allowed the young people to think about the factors that would influence classroom design.

A students design of the classroom



Additional activities included the students focussing on imagining what a school will look like in the future, the young people looked at a range of websites with school designs and the plans for the new school at the Athletes Village to assist them. The final exercise saw the students working in groups to create a checklist describing what an ideal lesson would look like, this helped students to frame their ideas for their ideal classroom. All worksheets are in the appendix for reference.

The latter part of the first day concentrated on the design of the classroom, students were given a template of the classrooms in the new school. The young people were told to think about what they want in the classroom, they cut out shapes from paper to stick on to the template and coloured the room in. The students worked in groups of 4-5 collaborating with each other to create original designs. Some of the students designed classrooms for specific subjects e.g. music, others concentrated on a generic classroom.

A student presenting his ideas



Throughout the design process Chris Grocock, Lend Lease, spent time with the students discussing ideas and plans, this helped to in the consultation process. At the end of a one day session Tim Leathes, Design Manager at Lend Lease and Chris spent time interviewing all of the groups about their designs. Some of the comments from the students included:

Group 1 – Team Chobham

- Focus on teacher with narrow classroom and interactive whiteboard easy to clean and more efficient
- Tables with wheels to create flexible spaces, these are easy to move around the classroom so that you can work in different groups.
- Less children in classroom, 20 maximum

- Air conditioning to help concentration / cool air
- Storage area for tables so flexible for different topics e.g. drama / games
- Book cabinets and storage space elevated so there is more space
- Children's walls : posters, children design wall images
- Glass at the back for light but not at sides for distraction

Group 2 – HSB Group

- ICT / Games included in the class
- Maximum 20 people
- Interactive white board
- Desks for preparation then computers along the sides
- Coat spacers, lockers
- Clean classrooms, clean desks
- Windows are able to be open and closed
- Lockable storage of personal stuff
- Drinks machine / more water fountains

Group 3 – Team Jaedon

- Shelves and clothes rack for storage and books
- Laptops for each student
- Projector for presentations
- TV to show educational movies
- Circular seating and focus in teacher
- More group work
- Water fountain in the corner
- Graffiti on walls, educational but designed by students

Group 4 – Team Scribbles

- Lockers – storage for stuff you don't need everyday
- Big Table
- Stationary storage area
- Mobile whiteboard (interactive with projector)
- Windows that open
- Circular seating – helps teacher move around the class
- Laptops attached to tables
- Printing area
- Teaching space at the front with shelves
- In small classes there is more learning, in big classes there is more fun

Group 5 – Team Alpha

- Music classroom
- Electric door (double door)
- Interactive whiteboards
- Computers – IMACs, Keyboards

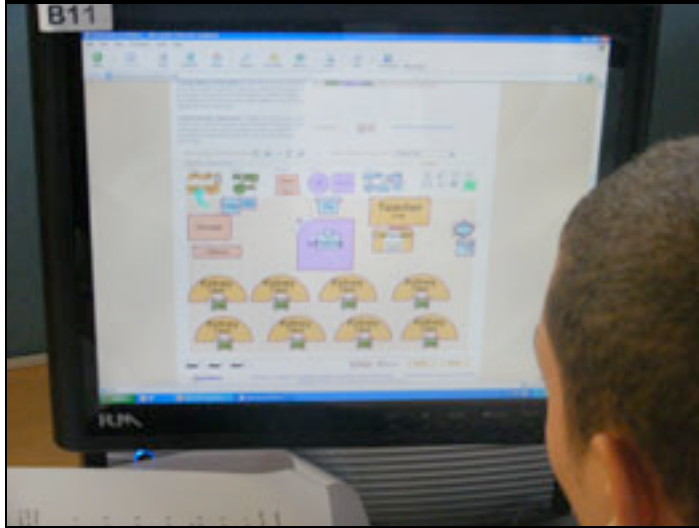
- Circular seating
- Black carpet – hides the dirt and is easier to clean
- Studio is sound proof due to instruments
- Classes all have creative space on walls, creativity is a reward for good behaviour
- 25 maximum children per class
- Ventilation and light – see through ceilings and windows
- Solar powered schools
- Relaxation space (chill out)

Group 6 – Team Faseela

- Teacher in the centre
- 20 students is the maximum
- Storage for bags, coats and other student stuff
- Books on shelves on different sides
- TV for educational films
- Windows that open for lots of light and provide fresh air

Overall the key points from this session were smaller classrooms, more group work, better storage and accessible ICT.

A Student Uses The Computer to design their ideal classroom



Session 2

The second session occurred on the 12th December 2008. On this day more interactive activities were planned to help the students with their classroom designs and to make the day more interesting. Students watched some videos by Stratford City Education Media students and by Open House which showed examples of consultation and allowed the young people to develop their ideas of what was expected in the process.

Student design of the outside areas and reception



Young people also had the opportunity to research internet sites by looking at the design of classrooms, on these sites they were able to look at how different design plans work out and have some fun with their ideas. Students also looked at other projects which were used for stimulus for their ideas. These projects included other classroom for the future projects that had been developed by the DCFS & individual schools.

After these sessions the students had another look at their original designs and most groups choose to do a second design refining their ideas. In addition, groups focused on wall coverings and many designed their own walls which they would like to have in their ideal classrooms.

Additional activities in the second session looked at the design of the canteen and allowed the students to create their ideal menu, this linked to healthy schools. Most students concentrated on the menu looking at different options that they would prefer.

Student design of the reception area



Session 3

The third session occurred on Friday 9th January 2009. Students had the opportunity of working on the Construction Awareness Mobile, using industry standard software. The young people had a presentation about this software, known as Autodesk Rivet, used on the mobile and were shown examples of how it is used by architects and designers. The students then had the opportunity by using the software to transfer their original hand drawn designs. This gave them a taster of how to use industry standard software and allowed them to make connections etween what their class sessions and the world of work.

The final part of the day saw the students present to Emma Deba, 14-19 Economic Wellbeing Team, London Borough of Newham and Chris Grocock, Lend Lease. Their ideas and those of other students are detailed below.

Emma and Chris listen to student ideas



A student presenting his ideas



A Student presents his idea for the ICT suite



Year 8 Students

After the initial successful trial of the project with Year 9 students two sessions were conducted with Year 8 students to

get a wider selection of views and ideas. The Year 8 students had previously attended a design workshop at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London and had started to think about design prior to the sessions.

The first session mirrored the initial session with the Year 9 students. The young people were introduced to the new school and completed a number of activities looking at how they learnt best and their ideal classrooms (see appendix for worksheets). The students worked in an optimal group size of three designing and creating their ideal classroom.

Students presenting their ideas



The second session involved the students presenting their ideas to Chris Grocock, Lend Lease, who was able to provide feedback and insight into what they said. These presentations allowed the students the opportunity to engage in dialogue with the developers and influence their ideas.

The winning team receive their certificates



The winners with their certificates



Student Voice- How Do They Learn Best?

Students were asked to think about how they learnt best to help them think about their ideal classroom and its layout. Below is a summary of some of the comments:

"I learnt a lot about rugby because the teacher made the lesson fun and it was energetic and not in a plain classroom".

"The lesson I learnt the most is Science because the teacher is strict and shouts at us, I also enjoy doing experiments".

"I learn best when we are active and moving, for example PE, most kids prefer that lesson because there is lots of movements. So in the schools of the future lessons like Science could become more fun by doing an example of the solar system with children doing the movement of the planets. Drama is also fun because you are active and showing off your talents in school".

"I learn a lot in English because of the teacher and the reason I learn a lot is the teacher is strict and puts pressure on us. I also learnt to choose a better partner to work with, rather than just working with my friends"

"I think it is better to work in groups, if you don't understand then others can explain and you can share ideas. It is boring if you work on your own".

"I learn a lot when the lesson is physical and there are activities included. People like to have fun as well as learn. Something I really enjoy is Enterprise as it gives you different opportunities".

"I like working with another person because then its not boring, also there are two brains so that you have a lot of thinking to put into your work. I don't mind working in groups making posters, and presentations and discussions as it is fun and much better than sitting alone".

Year 8 students present to the judges



What do they think about their current classrooms:

Students were asked to think about their current classrooms, this activity helped them to think about what they would like in a new classroom:

What do they like:

"I like working in groups with big tables with about 6 people on them".

"I like the computer areas but would prefer laptops instead of computers because its easier to travel around with a laptop".

" I like having computers that face the teacher".

"I like the computers and the interactive whiteboard, there is information about the subjects that you do on the walls of the classrooms. The Astroturf is a really good place in the school as you can do lots of sports and activities on it".

"I like having computers in the rooms".

"I like the maths class because some of them are big and I like to work in a big classroom".

"I like having computers in the classroom so that you don't need to move classrooms if you are working on computers".

"All classes have interactive computer whiteboards, plenty of space (usually) and lots of keyboards in the music rooms".

"I like the glass maths class as it's a bit creative and something new to the building".

What they don't like :

I don't like not having any lockers for my stuff"

Student suggestions:

Students were then asked what could be improved in current classrooms, this helps the decision process when the students are looking at designing their ideal classrooms:

"You could put laptops in every classroom, instead of boring classroom walls you should let students design the walls".

"The working area of the classrooms and the table layout need to be changed".

"The designs on the walls need to be changed".

"The speakers on the whiteboards don't usually work"

"The colours in the classrooms are too plain and there is always chewing gum under the table, classrooms are never clean".

"I think they should have a studio so that children can come and record music with all the equipment. I also think they should have a studio for dance with mirrors in it".

"I don't like the colour of the classes. I think these could be improved by letting students pick their own colours that they want in each class".

"I think you should be able to go out for lunch. I think there should be better PC & ICT equipment. I would like a more colourful building".

"The paint on the walls and the windows are dull, I think the rooms should be decorated in bright colours".

"I think the tables should be in a big circle and under every table there should be laptops with webcam. The classrooms should be bigger. All students should have their own lockers and there should be air conditioning".

"I think there should be more activities in a classroom and a wider variety of things to do".

"I think classrooms should be bigger so everyone has more space to work".

"I don't like that the classrooms are cramped and for example in the Drama studio there is hardly enough space to move and to show off your acting talents. I don't like the ICT rooms because there are too few computers that students have to go to other classrooms and share."

"The astroturf could be improved by making it wider and patching up any holes on the pitch. The ICT classrooms could be made wider so that more computers can be fitted inside. The classrooms need to have air conditioning because the windows don't open fully".

"I don't like the chairs at the moment as they are uncomfortable and bendy".

"I don't like the English class with no carpet because when you put your bag on the floor it gets dirty. I don't like the Astroturf because when you are playing football and fall over then your skin peels off because of the sand".

"The Maths class could be improved if it is made much bigger with more computers. I like it when I work in groups of 2 or 3 so it would be good if the room was arranged like this".

"I think the Astroturf could be improved by having fake grass instead".

"I think all rooms could be improve if they had a quiet place for reading and relaxing".

"I would like to be able to design the school refurbishments, I would like there to be many rooms like the CLC with its glass barriers and lots of computers".

Students were then asked to design the classroom for the future:

Comments are listed below:

One student said:

"I think the teacher should be at the front of the class, I think there should be at least 40 students in a class. I think that most subjects could be taught in the same class like ICT / English & Maths. I think the desks should be arranged in a long line so all the students can help each other. I think there should be graffiti designed by the students on the walls".

"In my class I want a fan for when you are hot, a heater when you are cold, water fountains when you are thirsty, a clothes stand so you have some where to put your jackets and bags I also want laptops for students they will be kept in a locked cupboard, a projector to show presentations, a TV to watch educational movies, one big table to fit the class around it will also encourage group and team work the chairs will be replaced with comfortable sofas, shelves to store class books, the floor will have carpet on them, the teacher will make the lesson fun and exciting".

"I think that schools will be modern and spacious in the future with lots of glass and colourful spaces. I think they will have good computer access and be set in pleasant grounds".

"I think in the future that a school should be big and spacious with bright colours. I think the building should be made of glass and all the classrooms should have interactive whiteboards".

"I think the teacher will be at the front of the room and there should be 20 students in the classroom. I think that Maths and English could be taught in the same room but other subjects, like Science need different rooms. I want laptops in the room as they take up less space. I think the walls should be decorated with pictures and logos that have been done by the students. I think the floors should be wooden".

"I think the classroom should be split into different areas and the walls should be decorated with pictures related to the subject. The floors should be wooden for safety".

The key learning points that came out of the sessions were:

- Smaller classes – most groups agreed that class size should not be greater than 20 children
- Flexible learning spaces – many students were interested in having chill out areas or quiet spaces in the classrooms
- Some students spoke about having desks on wheels so the size of groups could be easily altered
- Computers in all rooms, these would either be laptops or PCS
- Interactive whiteboards in each room
- Spaces for doing activities such as drama at the back of the room
- Location of the teacher – a lot of the groups spoke about locating the teacher in the centre of the room
- Organisation of desks – most students thought desks should be organised into smaller tables of 4-6 children as they encouraged group learning.

Student Evaluation Of Project

One student now appreciates this could be type of work the Construction and Built Environment Diploma covers and reviewing is options that were to be a lawyer.

Student feedback:

"I enjoyed making the design of the classroom".

"I thought today was really good. The best part was when we had to make our own classroom within our groups. It would have been better if we could do more activities and less talking".

"Today went well because I learned a lot about self confidence and also I got a chance to give my opinion on schools for the future".

"I think the project was fun but our presentation was too short, I would like to have had more time to work on our presentation".

"I learnt that I wanted the school to look better. I enjoyed showing my presentation. I didn't think we had enough time to work on the presentation though. I enjoyed it as I felt that I was more involved in this lesson than I am in most lessons. If I could do this project again I would have produced a better presentation".

"We learned about the different modern styles we could use to change the school. I enjoyed working on the presentation."

"I really enjoyed the presentation".

"In the project I learnt to say what I think and that my opinion matters, I liked putting my views across. I enjoyed using the computers rather than working on paper".

Employer Engagement – Lend Lease

Lend Lease, the developers of the Athletes Village, were involved in the project at all stages. The presence of a representative from developers gave the project credibility and ensured that students felt that their ideas were valued. Lend Lease were able to answer students queries and the project assisted in their consultation process.

Chris Grocock from Lend Lease says:

"This project has been really valuable for a number of reasons. Not only is good for us to be out there within the community raising awareness of Athletes Village but if we can support education and help raise aspirations for local children then it really shows we're can work with partners like Stratford City Education Project to deliver social as well as physical regeneration for the community.

As well as that the year 8 and 9 students taking part in Classroom for the Future really provided us with a valuable insight into their perception of classrooms, not only because they are of the right age, but because they also represent the type of kids that will be coming to Chobham Academy (the new school which forms part of the Olympic Village Legacy) in 2013 and beyond. This project has meant we can tailor our designs specifically to the needs of the type young people which will become Chobham students, it also supports their education and provides them with information about their local area too. All in all it's been an invaluable resource."

Employer Engagement – Blue Sky Media

Blue Sky Media filmed two sessions from the Classroom For The Future project to make into a promotional film. The film highlighted the working partnership between Lend Lease and the students and can be used as an example of incorporating student voice into teaching as well as stimulus material for schools who are involved in Building Schools For The Future.

Awad from Blue Sky Media described the project:

"Blue Sky Media is a professional film company that specialises in producing video documentaries and delivering media training. Their role in 'Classroom for the future' can be described as being the ears and the eyes of an external audience. Briefed by Stratford City Education Project and after meticulous planning they filmed the whole process on video paying great attention to details. Having captured a number of sessions, hours of footage were then edited down to 10 minutes to create a video diary.

Blue Sky Media's input was instrumental in offering an audiovisual overview of the process covering behind the scenes activities, an insight in the minds and experiences of participants and organisers alike.

Video diary also reflects several stages of project unfolding and testimonials of participants focusing on skills achieved throughout the journey as well as a taster of their ideal classroom for the future which they pitch back, to a dragon's den style of judges."

Employer Input – Construction Awareness Mobile

CAM was centre of raising awareness of all the diploma courses specially Construction and Built Environment, demonstrated in young people there is massive opportunities available within the construction Industry. CAM is design to show young people what the construction trade involves. CAM makes aware of the trade, technical and professional employment opportunities. CAM can be used for any project raising awareness and breaking stereotype.

CAM can....

- * Provide young people with a flavour of what it's like to work in professional construction
- * Give young people an opportunity to use professional resource along side experts

- * Show young people an image of construction not seen before
- * Give on insight to young people about what employers are looking for
- * Built self esteem, aspiration and confidence for young people
- * Provide opportunities for all young people who have yet to make a choice about their future

Stratford City Education Officer's Evaluation Of The Project

The project delivered its aims with the close links between Lend Lease and Stratford City Education Project adding value and credibility. The use of the construction awareness mobile in the second session allowed the young people to use industry standard software related to construction and design careers which helped students thinking about their future options. It would have been good to have more time using this, or alternative, software with the students so they could draw up their plans to a better level.

Taking three full day sessions to complete the program was quite extensive and it could have been fitted into three shorter sessions, still allowing students time for reflection and the developer's adequate time to give feedback.

The students tended to describe classrooms that were similar to the norm; therefore it may have been beneficial to spend more time looking at learning environments and styles prior to the design process, so the young people could be more creative with their ideas.

Another addition to the project could be to incorporate a visit to a new school so students had a point of reference when thinking about the future and the possibilities that it holds.

The project has a strong student voice element which adds to its credibility and usefulness.

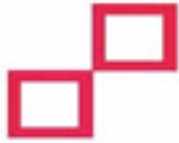
Advice for teachers

This resource is a good consultative tool to be used with students who are in schools involved in the building schools for the future program. In addition, it could be adapted to fit the Design & Technology curriculum or used as part of a project in the Construction and Built Environment Diploma.

The ideal delivery would be two days with some input from developers or outside agencies. However, this could also be a one day project that could be used to explore student's ideas and develop a consultation about new ways of teaching and learning.

The project could also be run as an enterprise activity with a competitive element between different classes.

To commence the project I would suggest that students watched the Classroom For The Future film and then discussed their ideas.



Building schools for the future

Consultation on a new approach to capital investment



Classroom for the future

A project being run over three sessions were you get to design your ideal classroom and present your ideas to developers.

Why do they want your ideas?

1. Bovis Lend Lease are building a brand new school "Chobham Academy" to be built on the site of the Athletes Village, this is a 3-19 year old school that is set to open in 2015.
2. Building Schools For The Future will be working at Forest Gate Community School to rebuild and renew current buildings

Lend Lease & Building Schools For The Future both want your ideas and opinions to integrate into Chobham Academy and FGCS. Your voice is critical as it will help the developers and the builders shape their ideas.

What do you need to do?

Over the next three sessions you will be designing your ideal classroom and presenting your ideas to the Developers of "Chobham Academy", these ideas will also be feedback to Building Schools for the Future who will be working at FGCS.

Current Classrooms

Think about your current classrooms at forest gate

What do you like?

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What don't you like?

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How could they be improved?

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Pupil Voice and Evaluation.

1. What are the main things that you learnt during this project?
2. What did you enjoy?
3. What didn't you enjoy?
4. How were the sessions different from your normal lessons?
5. What would you have liked to be done differently?