

### Removing barriers and creating new opportunities for learning

#### Student Voice and Choice

Student Voice is the means by which students articulate their needs and become partners in their own learning, negotiating ownership with their tutors and collaborators. Try to avoid token school councils with limited 'safe' remits such as uniform, school meals and playground environment discussions. These can serve to build up trust and demonstrate to students that their voice is heard before moving on to broader issues concerning school management, school policies, the curriculum and the recruitment of staff. Here are some ideas and examples of how UniServity cLc helps support this approach:

Students determining their own learning pathways- Ideas:

- Use forums to share, discuss and decide on learning choices
- Incorporate as much choice into planning. Consider the skills, knowledge and attitudes before content where appropriate. If these can be developed with different areas of study of greater appeal or relevance to learners then consider extending learner options
- Collaborate with other school. Form clusters or 14-19 federations offering extended choices to learners.

Giving students a voice: learner democracy

- Use surveys for polls and voting, requesting student feedback, anonymous evaluation of school systems and procedures
- Student owned groups
- Student eMagazines
- Video blogs
- Manage ePortfolios to allow social networking
- Encourage 'Facebook style' digital narratives
- Encourage student ePortfolio blogging
- Develop the use of peer assessment as an essential element of all learning

Students at this school have been using the cLc to sharing their feelings using video blogs, allowing learners opportunities to share personal digital stories. Students have also set up their own voting system using the survey tool to vote for their year 10 representatives on the school council giving every student an opportunity to serve rather than what can be perceived as a hand picked elite.



### Student Voice and Choice

Author	Natural phenomena	Author	How the world works.
Posted: 13 December 2005 11:46:31 MS MCMORDE Clearwater Bay School Posts: 31	Well done P4! You did some wonderful work on our Environment theme and you are definitely becoming enquirers. Our next theme will be 'natural phenomena' but formation. What do you already know? What do you think of some RELEVANT questions?	Posted: 09 December 2005 15:49:28 Ms ROSS Clearwater Bay School Posts: 19	As you can see from the title of this Forum, we are now thinking about our next Theme for after Christmas. The title is 'How the World Works; an inquiry into natural phenomena' I want to know what you would like to inquire into, just like we did for our Environment theme. The first thing you will need to do is, think about what natural phenomena means, you could look in a dictionary for a definition. Then post your ideas on this forum. I am looking forward to hearing your ideas
Posted: 13 December 2005 15:04:58 Jitta JACOBS Clearwater Bay School Posts: 6	what does phenomena mean?	Posted: 15 December 2005 21:16:29 Starri STEINDORSSON Clearwater Bay School Posts: 6	natural phenomena means natural disasters like earthquakes, floods ect. I would like to enquire into floods.
Posted: 15 December 2005 11:38:10 MS MCMORDE Clearwater Bay School Posts: 31	What a sensible question to start with Jitta! Have	Posted: 17 December 2005 11:03:54 MUPPALA Clearwater Bay School Posts: 9	NATURAL PHENOMINA MEANS THINGS WE CAN'T CONTROL LIKE TYPHOONS .I WANT INQUIRE INTO VOLCANOS
Posted: 15 December 2005 18:15:12 Jitta JACOBS Clearwater Bay School Posts: 6	oo but i am going to do it right now!!!!!!	Posted: 27 December 2005 10:43:31	ACTUALLY I'M CHANGING MY SUBJECT TO EARTHQUAKES

In this example, Year 4 primary students are shown navigating their own learning paths within a unit of work concerning natural phenomena. The learning objectives were not 'content' dependent so the teachers used discussion forums as part of their toolkit so that the children could explore their options in order to give them ownership of the curriculum. This has proven particularly powerful when working with both disaffected learners and learners whose personal experience lies outside the traditional curriculum. The teacher allowed students to form groups looking at each phenomenon. The cLc was then used to publish resources and findings and students were encouraged to interrogate each other's work and look for links with their own.

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#### HKWIS Editorial Team

allowed to miss some of their Mandarin classes as their teachers see the value of students having real reasons to write for real audiences and about material that is significant to them.

This school has developed a student run magazine that is published to 72 schools in Hong Kong, the UK and Mainland China. The students have organised themselves into an editorial team and they are given curriculum time to develop their ideas. The Hong Kong students are

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Sample articles from Issue 1:

• **Olympic News - 奥运新闻**

**Sports (体育):**

- **Badminton - 羽毛球**
- **Table Tennis - 乒乓球**
- **Athletics - 田径**
- **Aquatics - 游泳**
- **Equestrian - 马术**
- **Football- 足球**

**Hong Kong Culture (香港文化):**

- **Introduction to Hong Kong - 香港的简介**
- **Fashion In Hong Kong - 香港的时尚**
- **Food In Hong Kong - 香港的食物**
- **HK Music and Entertainment - 香港的音乐和娱乐**
- **HK Religion and Superstition - 香港的宗教和迷信**
- **Transportation in HK - 香港的交通工具**
- **Life as a Student in HK - 香港学生的生活**
- **Survival Cantonese for U**
- **History of Hong Kong - 香港的历史**

**Others (其他):**

- **Movie Reviews - 电影评论**
- **Description of the Beijing Olympics 2008 Emblem - 2008北京奥运会的徽章**

Want to eat dim sum? The following table should help a lot ...

English Translation	Chinese Characters	Cantonese Pronunciation
Dim sum	點心	deem sum
Spring roll	春卷	chun guun
Open pork dumpling	燒麥	siu mai
Shrimp dumpling	蝦餃	ha gao
Rice roll	腸粉	churn fun
Barbeque pork bun	叉燒包	cha siu bao



**List of the Beijing Olympics 2008 - 2008北京奥运会的节目表**

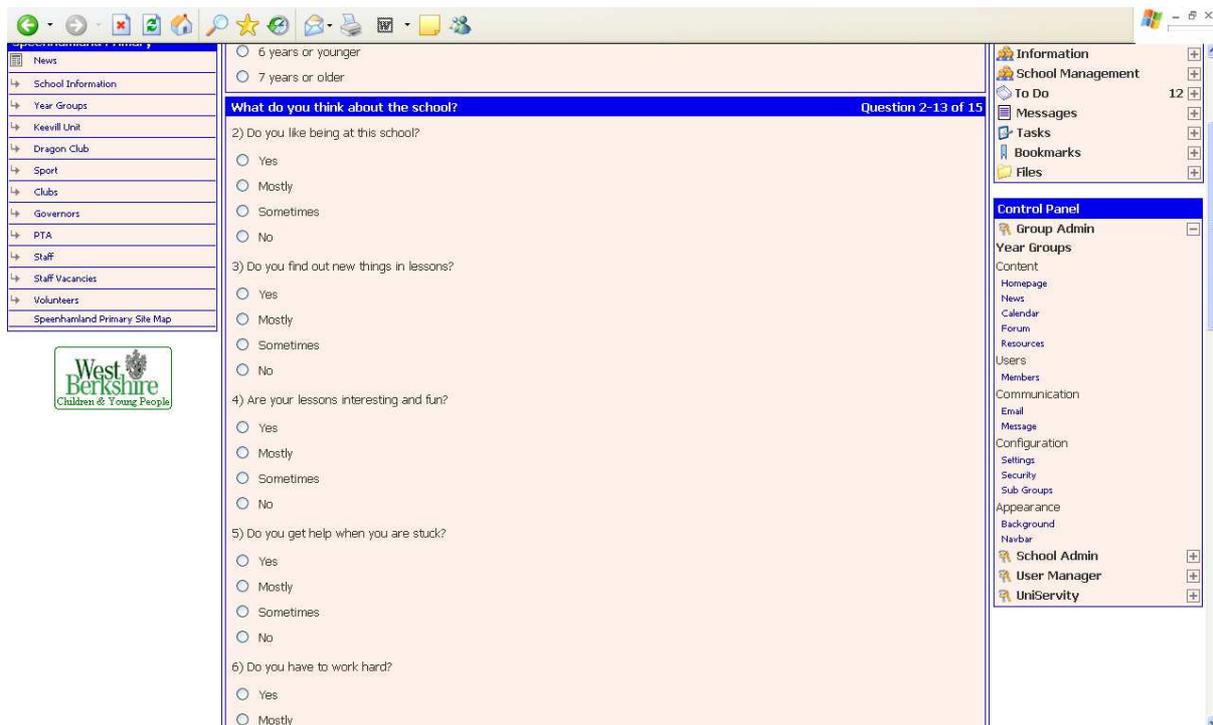
**Olympics 2008 - 2008北京奥运会**

The eMagazine includes discussion forums, surveys, polls and multimedia clips. The students are also monitoring their readership by tracking hits on each page of the magazine. Access to a global audience

means that the students are now inviting articles from each of the 72 schools in the UniServity 'Towards the Olympics' project. Their success has also earned them an invitation to the Launch of the UniServity / British Council 'Climate Cool' Project where they will be working with journalists from The South China Morning Post and Hong Kong's TVB television channel.

## Student Voice and Choice

This example shows a school in West Berkshire confident in its use of the cLc and where student voice is a highly valued resource. The students have been asked to comment on the organisation of their school and the quality of teaching, learning opportunities and assessment.



Username	How old are you?	Do you like being at this school?	Do you find out new things in lessons?	Are your lessons interesting and fun?	Do you get help when you are stuck?	Do you have to work hard?	show you how to make your work better?	Do other children behave well?	Are other children friendly?	would go to if you were worried at school?	Are teachers fair to you?	teachers listen to your ideas?	trusted to do things on your own?	What I like most about my school	What I would like to change about my school
Anonymous	7 years or older	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Mostly	Mostly	Yes	Yes	Yes	Mostly	its fun	more pe
Anonymous	7 years or older	Yes	Mostly	Mostly	Mostly	Mostly	Sometimes	Sometimes	Mostly	Yes	Mostly	Mostly	Yes	I like how people who are clever or not so clever get work that suits them.	
Anonymous	7 years or older	Sometimes	Sometimes	Sometimes	Sometimes	Mostly	Sometimes	Mostly	Mostly	No	Sometimes	Sometimes	Sometimes	the sport and PE lessons.	make the lessons more interactive and less listening.
Anonymous	7 years or older	Sometimes	Yes	Sometimes	Yes	Sometimes	Sometimes	Mostly	Mostly	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	sometimes the work is fun and sometimes it is hard.	nothing.
Anonymous	7 years or older	Yes	Yes	Mostly	Mostly	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Mostly	Yes	Mostly	I like how they treat us.	
Anonymous	7 years or older	Yes	Yes	Mostly	Yes	Sometimes	Yes	Mostly	Mostly	No	Mostly	Mostly	Sometimes		
Anonymous	7 years or older	Yes	Mostly	Mostly	Sometimes	Mostly	Yes	Sometimes	Mostly	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	I like about school is the dinner hall and it's the only place to eat.	nothing
Anonymous	7 years or older	Yes	Sometimes	Mostly	Mostly	Mostly	Yes	Mostly	Mostly	No	Mostly	Yes	Yes	my friends	
Anonymous	7 years or older	Mostly	Mostly	Mostly	Yes	Mostly	Sometimes	Sometimes	Mostly	No	Mostly	Mostly	Sometimes	P.E and History	Teachers to be in more control of naughty children and for things not to be band so often or not at all.
Anonymous	7 years or older	Sometimes	Sometimes	Sometimes	Yes	Mostly	Yes	Sometimes	Mostly	Yes	Sometimes	Mostly	Mostly	I like playtime because it gives me energy	I would like more choosing and ten more minites playtime because it gives me more energy and burns off my fat
Anonymous	7 years or older	Mostly	Yes	Mostly	Yes	Mostly	Mostly	Mostly	Yes	Yes	Mostly	Mostly	Sometimes	People at school are friendly.	Have more manors.