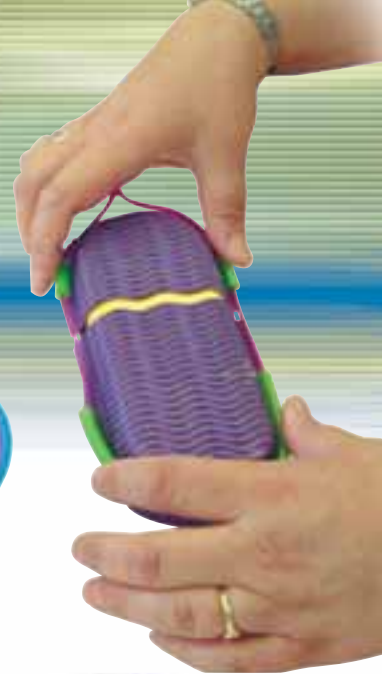


Millennium Schools Programme



Just once in a while you wait for a bus and they really do all come at once! Certainly that seems to be the case with the **Millennium Schools Projects** from TEP. We featured a number of the project Teacher Guidance Unit books in our last edition, and now a further set of projects has been developed. These have formed the basis of a two-day INSET at Sheffield Hallam University for TEP Millennium Schools teachers.

The projects are being trialled successfully in a number of schools across the UK. They are based on the need to redefine the curriculum at Key Stage 3 with high quality resources and publications. Using smart and modern materials and modern desktop workshop practice, the projects provide a sound basis for focussed practical tasks and experiences for pupils. Teachers can use any one or a number of the Millennium teacher guidance unit books developed with the

support of Sheffield Hallam University staff to provide freestanding projects to integrate into their key stage 3 scheme of work.

The new projects launched at the end of May include:

- **Mobile phone POD**, in pre-coloured sheet moulding materials that can be used as a personal storage unit .
- **Message in a box**, an approach to PIC based texting in a graphic gift box that appeals to pupils and redefines the direction of graphic products.

• **Aromatherapy fan**, using a combination of modern and traditional workshop construction the project focus is on a systems and control element and a desirable desktop ornament.

The current Millennium Schools programme is a research activity in 12 schools working with 70 teachers and, during 2002-3, 6000 key stage 3 pupils. Using the TEP Millennium Teacher Guidance Unit books and resources available from Teaching Resources, teachers are incorporating the projects into existing schemes of work and in some cases replacing their schemes of work entirely. The principal outcomes so far are real breadth of study at key stage 3, quality making and hands on learning by doing. The support books are engaging for teachers and provide a bomb proof starting point for project work. Most Millennium school departments are tailoring the projects by building in extension and pupil centred design activities, and are networking with each other to share good practice and ideas.

Quality making and pupils' pride in their projects are both evident in the current trials. The projects are making a real impact and are broadly sustainable within the capitation costs of departments. The project is currently monitored by the **National Centre for Social Research** in all the participating schools.

