

A Millennium Schools Celebration

The **Millennium Schools Project** is now widely known across many schools. Over 11,000 pupils have been working on the research project and almost sixty staff have been involved in teaching the project work in eleven schools. They have been actively engaged on the project over the last two years in trialling and developing a number of Key Stage 3 Design and Make projects. Now of course, many hundreds of schools are using the project materials.



Millennium Galleries, Sheffield

Many of the projects have featured in News and Views and include some familiar titles including: **Jitterbugs**, **Bubble Blowers**, **Aromafans** and **Pods** to name just a few. The key partners in the project TEP, **Sheffield Hallam University** and **Teaching Resources** organised a celebration event at the appropriately titled **Millennium Galleries** in Sheffield during the autumn term to bring the staff together with some of the work done to share the experiences and good practice of the last two years.

We cannot speak highly enough of the work done during the last two years by all the schools, staff and pupils involved. Projects provided a broad and enlightened approach to D&T. Most schools felt the status of D&T was raised within their school as a result of the programme. Essentially typical responses from the schools had commented on how innovative and enhancing the two years has been. Both pupils' and teachers' enthusiasm has been fired up and in many cases the work has already had an impact on teaching and learning in Key Stage 4 and beyond. Schools had taken steps to identify areas within National Curriculum and allocated areas to each project, feeding the assessment and recording strands/tasks more easily. Identifying particular aspects to be taught, tested and assessed in advance made the assessment process more manageable and projects more accessible.

The projects sought to introduce not just process and content but to revitalise the way teachers plan and teach as well as introduce new materials and concepts across the D&T continuum.



Finally a brief word about the pupils, we have been in all of the trial schools a number of times and on every occasion we have been humbled and elated at the volume of work and interest and active capability shown by pupils.

If truly one aspect of the programme could and should stand out above all others it is the way the topics and projects have fired up and interested pupils across age and gender barriers. In particular we noted how it has raised expectations and given a whole new perspective to their D&T experience.



TEP has established a new and evolving portfolio of these 'Millennium' Key Stage 3 projects which are aimed at revitalising and modernising the D&T experience for pupils and teachers. TEP's aim is to add to and broaden the range of topics annually. Introducing a diverse and growing mix of materials, design and process experiences

across D&T will be a hallmark of the series. These projects do electrify pupils and raise their expectations and attitudes to pursuing D&T at Key Stage 4.



➔ The Millennium Schools Project acknowledges the outstanding contribution to Design Technology by the staff and pupils of all the schools who took part.



The project has brought successes and rewards of quality outcomes for pupils. Extension activity and the use of teaching aids, jigs and fixtures has become the norm and the quality of pupil design portfolio work originally not premised by the project has flourished in all the schools taking part.



Building on the assertion that D&T practice needed to 'modernise or die' TEP believes that this work represents much that is good about the subject and seeks to raise the profile and heighten the opportunities available at Key stage 3 and beyond.

➔ If you would like more details on the projects visit the TEP website, request a Millennium leaflet using the coupon on the back page and look out for further articles on projects in News and Views. All of the teacher guidance units are available from TEP for each of the projects and 'starter kits' are also available from Teaching Resources. A full gallery of Millennium teaching materials will also be available on CD-ROM later this year.

Our thanks also are due to the staff at the **Millennium Galleries, Arundel Gate, Sheffield** for their organisation on the day. Well worth a visit if you are in or around Sheffield.