



PRESS RELEASE

Visit of Schools Radio to Somervale

Ever looked at the breadth of skills in your classroom and wondered how you could bring them together. How can you engage children who may have found it difficult to shine academically or in sports? - well, one school with the help of SchoolsRadio.com has shown us how its done.

On Friday 14th November Somervale School played host to a visit from SchoolsRadio.com pioneers, Peter Thompson and John Bradford who came to see how the unique partnership between Somervale School and Somer Valley FM was progressing.

The visit was organised by Paul Myers, Marketing Manager of **Arqiva** who sponsor **SchoolsRadio.com**. Michael Gorman, Head Teacher said, 'It was important for the school to link up with the **SchoolsRadio.com** as it offers us at Somervale a context for our achievements in this work. The visit demonstrated to us just how much we had achieved in developing school radio over the last two years. We are very much looking forward working more closely with the Schools Radio network over the coming years to spread the message of how central radio can be in developing oral skills and self esteem in young people.'

President of Vision Charity who is the Chairman of SchoolsRadio.com said "Somervale have done an incredible job of setting up their school radio activity which is most impressive. Their achievements will surely be an inspiration to any schools wishing to set up their own facility"

It was a great complement to the work that Somervale has done with Somer Valley FM that they are now held up as an example of best practice. The school and Somer Valley FM are developing courses in radio production for students and adults in the community.

Radio is an important element in today's youth culture. Apart from music, radio delivers news, sport, entertainment and information all of which influence students' views on the world in which they live. Above all it can provide involvement. Students listen to - and respect radio – now they can take an active part!

Mark Kenny, Deputy Headteacher said, 'what we have learnt about radio is that there are ways for all to excel, whether it be students with limited confidence in their ability becoming part of a broadcast team or the most able hosting their own shows, it offers a creative outlet for all.'

One students observed, 'it's fun to be in front of a microphone knowing that your voice can be heard by your mum and gran when you switch on a radio.'

Somer Valley FM have secured a grant of £32,000 from the Rural Renaissance Initiative to train 15 students in radio production. It is hoped that this established track record will stand the school and the station in good stead to offer training to teachers across the country in how to establish a school can move from in school broadcasting to offering community radio on your doorstep.



NOTES TO EDITORS

SchoolsRadio.com is a charity and an initiative established to level the playing field in a class room setting. SchoolsRadio.com encourages all schools across the full age range to get involved in audio production of all kinds because it can help so many students realize their full potential. SchoolsRadio.com can help your students start to create their own programmes, improve their production skills and share their audio programmes with other UK schools.

Launched in 2007 by Secretaries of State the Rt. Hon. Ed Balls MP and the Rt. Hon. James Purnell MP, Schools Radio has been developed as an initiative by the Vision Charity. Students have ideas, opinions, a voice and access to a computer - and that's all it basically takes to make a radio programme, podcast or audio file. Encouraging creativity, developing technical skills and stimulating dialogue between young people, Schools Radio enables students to have their say – their way – with a national audience.

To find out more about SchoolsRadio.com go to www.schoolsradio.com

To arrange interviews or obtain images contact Bernie.muir@visioncharity.co.uk or call 020 8340 3074