

London school children swap the classroom for the director's chair in new filmmaking partnership with Goldsmiths University

A GROUP of budding filmmakers from Hyde Park Preparatory School are swapping their school books to get behind a video camera in a unique filmmaking project with Goldsmiths University.

15 students from the leading independent school, based in South Kensington, have been selected to take part in the innovative *Critical Connections II: Moving Forward with Multilingual Digital Storytelling Project*, run by Goldsmiths University and the British Film Institute (BFI).

The scheme, which focuses on how multilingual digital story-telling can play a beneficial role in mainstream education, also aims to teach young people new digital technology skills whilst enhancing their multilingual literacy and language abilities.

Launched this month, 15 bilingual students from the school were chosen to participate in the six-month programme which will see them research, direct and film their own documentary. Students will use both English and their mother tongues throughout – with languages including Estonian, Russian and French.

After completing a series of workshops hosted by tutors from both Goldsmiths University and the BFI, which began this week at the Southbank Centre, the students will showcase their work at the BFI's June Film Festival.



Speaking about the partnership, Hyde Park School Headmistress Hilary Wyatt, said:

"At Hyde Park School, we are firm believers that education should be an engaging, collaborative and fully immersive process. We want our pupils to learn through as many engaging ways as possible and this often means getting out of the classroom and participating in innovative projects, like Critical Connections, that offer a totally unique learning experience."

"We're lucky enough to have a number of bilingual students at Hyde Park who have been able to share their experiences, culture and heritage whilst also learning valuable new digital and filmmaking skills. It has been fantastic to see their enthusiasm, passion and engagement with the project so far and we're incredibly excited to see the result in June."

-ENDS-

Suggested social content:

Facebook: Hyde Park Pre-prep students swap their pens and pencils for a video camera as they join forces with Goldsmiths University in a unique, educational filmmaking project! [insert hyperlink] [embed image]

Twitter: Pre-prep students at #HydeParkSchool partner with @GoldsmithsUoL in unique filmmaking project to celebrate languages from across the world! [insert hyperlink]

Supporting collateral available on request:

- Interview with Hyde Park School headmistress, Hilary Wyatt
- Photo call with students

Notes to editors**About Hyde Park School:**

- Hyde Park School was founded by Lady Macpherson in 1962 and is part of the Minerva Education Group
- The school comprises of a pre-preparatory school set in the grounds of The Long Garden in Connaught Village, catering for up to 70 children aged between 3 – 5 years, and a preparatory school based on Elvaston Place in South Kensington, catering for up to 120 children aged between 6 – 11 years
- In 2015, the school appointed Hilary Wyatt as Headmistress

About Minerva Education:

Minerva Education is an independent sector schools group comprising of three schools across central London, one in Cambridge and one in Surrey. Each and every schools has retained its own special identity, traditions and ethos. Through its 'Inspiring Learning' education improvement programme, Minerva aims to improve education provisions in all its schools and share best practise with teachers.