

The following extracts are taken from articles written by students from a number of schools taking part in student led research projects, in response to a SSAT and NESTA (National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts) initiative. Students were invited to raise their own questions to explore, in addressing the challenges facing C21st education and a global economy. We invite you to read about their projects and explore and respond to the issues and questions they raise.

The extracts are taken from a publication that will be launched on Tuesday 23 March 2010 called, *Meeting the challenge of C21st education and a global economy: Student research teams present their initial findings*

To find out more go to:

<https://www.ssatrust.org.uk/innovation/studentvoicenetworks/Pages/home.aspx>

## Webcam Around the World

Lily Smith, Eddie Mills, Hannah Sizer and Holly Clarke, Homewood School and Sixth Form Centre, England.

Webcam Around the world is a student-run project designed to improve communication and understanding between students in schools from different countries. We plan to do this by setting up links with schools around the world and offering students the opportunity to talk and share ideas with other young people via a safe webcam network.

For our initial application for funding we were asked to come up with 'key questions'. Ours are:

- What can we learn from other cultures?
- Why is communication important?
- How does modern technology shape this?

In our planning for the project we began to understand why communication between countries and having an understanding of other cultures is important. We can share ideas and skills, learn more about other countries and cultures, and we can take advantage of new technology to make this easier....

We hope that through the use of this project safe contact between students of different countries will be encouraged, as will language and communication skills and the understanding and acceptance of other people's cultures and environment. We also hope that involvement will

enable everyone to gain a better perspective of what is going on in the world around us, not just from watching the television or reading newspapers, but by speaking with people who for them, the news is what is happening to them in their everyday lives....

**Questions for you....**

- What ideas do you have for enabling global communication and the exchange of ideas?
- What projects and learning opportunities already exist in your school and community involving understanding about other cultures?