

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>

## **Project 9: ICT Curriculum Co-construction**

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**Key questions the project aims to address and for you to consider:**

- How can students be used as co-constructors and teachers of ICT to better meet the developmental needs and aspirations of students?
- Put another way, can we create the conditions for more relevant and exciting learning in ICT at KS3 if the curriculum is planned and delivered by students?

**The Project:**

We are aware that the ICT capabilities of teaching staff often lag behind the interest and expertise of students and currently the ICT curriculum has a 'one size fits all' structure and limits the personalisation of learning.

Within the student population, individual students have demonstrated a significant level of expertise and interest and we are keen to develop strategies to utilise these skills to enhance our ICT curriculum.

Our first step has been to establish a 'Student organising team' comprising Year 12 students. They have presented an outline to year 9 students and surveyed them on their wishes for ICT projects/provision, asking follow up questions like: What do you want to learn; how do you want to learn it?

On the basis of responses, 'Student Module teams' with the required ICT expertise have been recruited from years 10-13. They have developed lesson plans, with teacher support....

During 2009/10 the whole Year 9 cohort has engaged in a range of ICT activities based on student choices to enhance personalisation, using extended 'off-timetable' slots, taught by older students.

**More questions to consider:**

- What opportunities are there in your school for students to teach other students?
- How might you involve members of the wider community in teaching and learning opportunities?
- What role should students have in determining not only what is taught, but how it is to be taught?