



# BBC News School Report

News Day deadline: 26 March 2009



The **BBC News School Report** and the **GA** have teamed up to create a unique opportunity for geography teachers and their KS3 students – the chance to create an online news report, a podcast or a video news clip which will be linked nationally to the BBC News School Report website with the chance to have it broadcast live on local/national radio or TV on 26 March 2009. Full details and teacher resource packs are available from:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/schoolreport>

Sign up today and showcase what you and your KS3 geography students can do!

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The BBC News School Report team has been running this project for two years, concentrating mainly on its benefits as a media project via KS3 English and ICT. The GA believes that not only is accessing and using the latest news critical to real, relevant and topical geography teaching but that much of the current best practice in geography classrooms uses well-planned enquiry-based learning that meshes seamlessly with the journalistic philosophy (find a question, gather information, write a story and create a presentation) of the BBC News School Report project.

The BBC aims to expand the School Report project to a wider range of schools right across the UK and is looking to the geography community to help achieve this aim. For us, it provides a unique opportunity to work in partnership with the BBC in order to illustrate the key role that geography plays in the education of young people and to highlight the pool of talent that already exists amongst geography teachers who are regular users of online, audio and video media with their students. At the moment very little of the best work being done by teachers and students gets seen outside the individual schools.

If you are keen to take part but looking for support, the BBC has an online resource pack and provides each school that signs up with a BBC mentor to support them. In addition, the GA is looking to provide ideas and resources for teachers wanting to sign up with this exciting project. With the flexibility now built into the new KS3 curriculum, careful planning should mean that you can integrate this project into your work with minimal time/effort/cost implications and with tangible benefits for your students, your department and your school.

A Ning (social networking website) has been set up to offer teachers taking part in the project the chance to ask questions and to provide advice and support for each other. You can access this at:

<http://geoschoolreport.ning.com/>

If you have any questions about taking part, please don't hesitate to get in touch. I will provide whatever support I can to help geography departments take part.

**David Rayner**

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*(GA Geography Consultant liaising with the BBC News School Report team)*