

## SECTION J:

# The Future



**After many years as a technology looking for an application, video conferencing is now established as a technology with the potential to combine with other ICT tools to transform teaching and learning.**

## But where next?

In one sense the technology is already mature - we can video conference today with people across the world. Any developments will only make this easier, give more flexibility and a better quality experience.

### So what might we expect from the technology?

- **Anytime - anywhere conferencing**

The use of IP based conferencing will increase the number of systems available to students. It is not unreasonable to expect that every computer will have conferencing capability in the very near future.

Broadband in the home will enable any of us to video conference in the same way that we use the phone.

Mobile conferencing will enable us to conference while on the move using portable devices.

The combination of video conferencing with video streaming technologies will enable many more people to take part in a conference by watching it live and feeding back responses via other media such as e-mail. Video streaming can also be used to archive recordings of conferences and make these available via the Internet, perhaps packaged with other teaching resources.

- **Integration with other tools**

Scheduling and access management tools will be essential if the classroom is not to be swamped by video communications. In the short to medium-term, bandwidth resources will not be unlimited, so a school will need to control conferencing access to and from its site.

Teachers will need to be able to tailor two-way and multipoint conferences to meet the needs of their teaching.

Integrating video conferencing with content management tools, such as presentation software, video and audio editing, and interactive whiteboards, will significantly increase its potential as a communications medium.

*Whatever the developments in the technology, it will be the way the teacher uses it in the classroom that will have the greatest impact.*

## Video conferencing will:

- increase collaboration between schools
- provide home access to school, supporting homework and independent learning
- bring an increasing range of expertise directly into the classroom
- enable significant opportunities to exchange multicultural knowledge and develop as an invaluable means of learning languages
- provide a great means of enabling much closer and real-time links between education and industry
- provide more accessible teacher training and support
- assist in support of services purchased by schools, particularly those where technical support is a key component
- add an additional dimension to community use of schools' resources

In short, video conferencing will become a regular part of teaching, used for a whole variety of formal and informal activities by teachers and students.

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*Details of developments in video conferencing as they happen will be included on the Becta website. It is also the intention that additional case studies and examples of good practice from schools and colleges will continually be added to the site.*

**If you use video conferencing in your school, we would be interested to hear from you, especially if you are working in curriculum areas we have not yet touched on. Please send details of your work to Becta - there are details of how to go about this and a template to use on Becta website [www.becta.org.uk](http://www.becta.org.uk) and the Global Leap website [www.global-leap.com](http://www.global-leap.com)**

