

BBC News Reporters at Hamilton in Video conference to Kentucky with US attaché

Students at Hamilton Community College in Leicester have struck up a cyber friendship with Henderson North Middle School in Kentucky. Since president Obama's inauguration, students have been exchanging views and thoughts about his presidency and the global impact of the credit crunch in both America and Britain in weekly conversations over the internet.

During a recent visit to Hamilton, cultural attaché to the US Embassy, Mr. Mark Lanning delivered a presentation on President Obama's, past present and future to over 200 students. In the afternoon, he was interviewed by students at Hamilton on topical issues such as the global economy and war in Afghanistan, then at 3pm UK time and 10am Kentucky time students in the Hamilton 'President Watch' club made a video call to their friends in class at Henderson. For 15 minutes they exchanged questions and views about similar issues facing students both sides of the Atlantic.



News reporters Hannah and Janki (both 13 interview Mark Lanning from the US embassy)

Janki (13) said 'I was so nervous about talking to Mr Lanning, but he was cool and answered our questions, I hope in the future we will have more of a chance to do this sort of thing again'

Hannah (13) said ' After speaking over the internet for nearly 2 months as part of the BBC school News report team, it was great to finally see who we were speaking too!!!, We are going to make regular video calls to them, I hope that we can stay friends forever.'



Students at Hamilton making the video call to their US friends.

The teachers at Henderson High school, Richard Hilton and Harry Breamer commented on how excited their students were at being part of this exchange ‘ our students enjoyed talking with their peers in the United Kingdom, and they look forward to more live conferencing in the future’ (Richard Hilton Henderson North Middle School)
Sera Shortland teacher at Hamilton Community College expressed her hopes for the future of the exchange project.

‘Thanks to the BBC School News Report students have had the opportunity to take part in a real and compelling learning experience, one that they will stay with them forever and that they can develop, they are now working to invite local politicians on both sides of the Ocean to take part in video conferences so that they can learn more about political systems and cultural life in two very diverse countries’.