

EPIC Day Out

Give your kids an EPIC day out. The East of England Production Innovation Centre – EPIC – in Norwich is supporting the 14-19 agenda by offering students access to its state of the art TV and production facilities at low cost. Centre Director Mark Wells has been appointed “ambassador” for the Creative and Media Diplomas in the Eastern Region.

“When the studios are not in use,” he says, “we are very happy to arrange tours and visits for school parties. We can also arrange for the students themselves to produce their own TV programme, using professional kit.”

Student parties can take over one of the centre’s three recently re-equipped TV studios. Using the same studio and set which is used for weekly production of the BBC’s new sports programme – “Late Kick Off” – they can operate professional broadcast cameras, sound desks, vision mixers and VT equipment.

“We have a totally pre-prepared TV programme on stocks all the time,” says Mark, “It is scripted, loaded onto autocue and has a title sequence, video inserts and an opportunity for a live studio interview. It’s ideal for younger students or those new to TV technology.”

More advanced students, or those coming back for repeat visits, can create their own programme from scratch, bringing in videos which they have shot and edited themselves and working with EPIC to develop their work into a full TV programme.

Mark says that the TV production experience can be very beneficial for students, even if TV production is not directly on their educational or career agenda.

“It’s a collaborative process. Students working in the gallery have to communicate well with each other, and with the camera team and the presenters on the studio floor. If they don’t communicate – it won’t work: but after hundreds of kids have gone through the experience, we can honestly say that we’ve never had a failure yet. And when they come out of the studio, they are all buzzing with excitement.”

EPIC is a production and online media centre owned and operated by Norfolk County Council, and based within former ITV studios in Magdalen Street in the city. EEDA has recently spent in the region of £4m, acquiring the building and updating it to the most modern high definition production technology. Schools interested in visiting should contact EPIC on 01603727727, or via info@epic-tv.com

For further information visit our website at www.epic-tv.org/.