Getting started

Making a video can be as technical or as simple as you want – just like any other project.
- For a first project, keep the focus simple. This will not only reduce the technical demands but also cut the shooting time, which means less editing and less storage space required.
- Work in a room with good natural light to reduce the need for extra lighting.
- While shooting, ensure that the camera is close to the person being filmed so that sound can be picked up by the in-built microphone. This will reduce the requirement for an external microphone (one less technicality!).
- Check that the batteries are fully charged and have a good long extension lead as back-up to attach the camera directly to a power supply.

When introducing your students to the equipment:
- Demonstrate the use of the tripod stand and stress the importance of using the tripod at all times.
- Demonstrate the three types of shots which are frequently used: wide (used to cover a large area, such as a lake); medium (focuses on an aspect of the wide shot, which might be a boat in the lake); and the close-up (the name of the boat, for example).
- Consider how to frame the shot. Demonstrate the 'thirds' golden rule, in which the object to be filmed is placed on the edges of the viewfinder and never in the centre.
- Also, show students how to start and pause recording.
- Finally, stress the importance of not using the zoom button while filming. This can be very distracting to the audience and result in loss of interest. It is as simple as that!

For more information and tips, visit the websites below:
- Video in the classroom for general tips and advice.
- Digimedia for a step-by-step guide through filming and editing.
- Video nation filming skills which has clips that illustrate various filming skills.
- BECTA's ICT Advice website has an invaluable 'jargon buster' resource sheet covering framing, camera movements, lighting, editing and much more.