

Overview of case study 9.3

This case study is designed to develop the knowledge, skills and understanding needed to carry out a project systematically. The project is to design a front-of-house ticketing system for a theatre or school production. This involves a financial plan, a ticket booking system and an information system for advertising the production to pupils and parents.

Pupils learn to plan the stages of a project, and the use of a flow chart to record their decisions. They use a design specification as the basis for their work and devise criteria to evaluate their success. They develop many skills, in particular in time management and problem solving. At the end of the unit they produce a written report summarising their project and its successes.

The project is limited to three tasks to allow the teacher to ensure that the whole class learn project methods. Differentiation is achieved through the work carried out by individual pupils for each of the tasks set within the framework of this case study. The three tasks are linked and more-able pupils will produce solutions which dynamically link the seating and financial systems.

This case study is the third in the year and pupils should already be familiar with Gantt charts and project documentation. Many pupils will be able to complete the tasks with increasing independence. Teacher resources have been provided to show a possible solution for pupils of different abilities. The resources are offered as guidance for the teacher, not the pupil.

This school has developed resources around the school pantomime. This can readily be changed to promote specialisms within the school, for instance, drama, music, dance or sports displays.

Timing

This unit is expected to take approximately 14 hours.

Front-of-house theatre booking system

In order that you can have users to check your pupils' systems you will need to liaise with a Year 10 class who will be the designated users of the final system. They will use the system to input the costs for a production, assess the best ticket prices and book the seats as they are sold. These pupils will need to work through the system and give feedback on its suitability for purpose and ease of use to your pupils. Ideally they should also be available in lesson 13 to receive and comment on a presentation of the final system. Using Key Stage 4 groups will be helpful for their work on systems; however, if this is not possible, groups within the same class can be used to check the system.