

## Music Enrichment Morning at Sir Bernard Lovell

On the 13 June, I had the pleasure of accompanying a small group of my children to Sir Bernard Lovell School to take part in a morning of Music and ICT enrichment. "It was a huge school, we thought we might get lost!" joked Sian. We joined children from other primary schools in South Gloucestershire and after some initial shyness, swapped some ideas and jokes during the session! "The games at the beginning helped us to do this - we needed to keep in time with rhythms and create our own in groups." Timor explained "I was a bit shy at first to work with children from another school, but we were talking by the end"



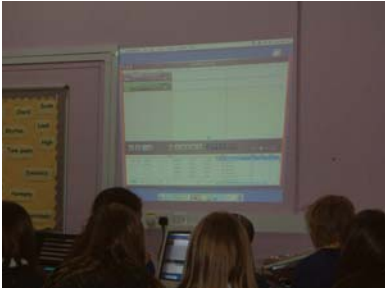
Sven Rees introduced us to GarageBand, ICT software that allowed us to compose our own songs. We watched Sven model each step before moving to our own computers to add to the tracks. "It was easy to do the program a step at a time because Mr Rees showed us how to do it. He was helping Timor and I to make the musical elements work together and to burn the track to the disc" said Lee. We built up the songs layer by layer, first adding the drum section, then the bass, next the guitar and finally an extra layer, such as strings, was added. As each step was added, we re-played the song to check new elements fitted the track and adjusted as necessary. "It was quite a complicated program to use. It's hard to drag the parts of the track where you needed them. However, it was worth the effort!" insisted Georgia.

Once we had created a dynamic 16 beats, we added a second section. We added each layer, but made this part distinctly different to the A section. To complete our musical tracks, we copied the A section to repeat after the B section. "I think that it was really good software - it was good to try music and get into music because it had different types of instruments. I thought it was an easy program, fun to use, made a great sounding tune - and there were lots of options to choose from." - Sian



We had a chance to move around and listen to others tracks and were amazed at the differences in each group - each track was a unique piece. "I loved listening to the songs of the children from other schools on the computer. Sian and I made ours very soft and gentle and the others sounded really different. Some were very rocky or spooky sounding, so I heard different ideas," says Georgia. We took home CD's of the tracks, which enable the four from Falconride to surprise others at home with their composing talents! "My mum loved it - she didn't know I'd be able to do that!" laughed Georgia.





It was a fantastic morning and we felt we had learned a great deal from taking part. "I thought Garageband was a really good program because you can make your own music. Before I went to Sir Bernard Lovell I didn't know you could make music like that on the computer" said Timor. Lee agreed, adding "I hope we can get the software for our school!"

□ **Laura Harrison, Music Co-Ordinator  
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