Distance Learning at FCC:

Innovation has been defined as 10% inspiration and 90% perspiration – and no truer than in this example! At FCC we have the ideas and the motivation but, as usual, the problem is one of getting things done by yesterday. Just before the Summer holiday we had a 'window-of-opportunity': we needed to provide a Distance Learning course for the 1st September, Broadband was promised, the technology was feasible, monies could be scraped together, all it needed was to get all the ingredients put together in time and in the right order!

After some preliminary discussions with 21st Advanced Options – a Distance Learning provider based in Wales, we pencilled-in the Psychology course for September.

Fortunately, with the enthusiastic backing of Peter Martin, we were able co-ordinate innumerable suppliers, including some very able technicians at 21st AO, in order borrow the 'kit' for evaluation and get all the 'bits' fastened together. Once everything was fixed it worked like a dream!

As Freda Wolfenden, Oxfordshire Content Development Officer at the Wheatley ICT Centre, wrote:

"This term five broadband pilot projects are taking place in secondary schools around Oxfordshire; these will inform our understanding of how broadband will enhance learning across the curriculum.

***"Faringdon Community College** is the first pilot school to be connected with a **Broadband link and video conferencing facilities**. The video conferencing facility is being used initially to provide a Distance Learning package for a class of 12 AS Psychology students whilst future plans include using the facilities to communicate with link schools abroad. The psychology students have found the video conferencing simple to use and there is an encouraging degree of interactivity with the teacher."*