

Lesson plan 3 - Updating websites

This lesson plan can be used with students who have already created a website and want to write more stories and update their site. It is possible for student to do this independently at home, or at school. This lesson may be useful for teachers who want to ensure their students use their MyNewsroom.co.uk sites, to teach other parts of the curriculum using the sites, or to encourage students who are less confident.

Teacher preparation

It would be helpful, though not necessary, to have a shortlist of around 10 news stories from that day or the previous day for the students to choose from. It is also advisable for teachers to be familiar with stories in the news in the six categories the students will be working within (UK, world, science, technology, culture, sport).

Learning outcomes

- Students will:
- know how to replace a top story on their front page
 - know how to replace a picture on their front page
 - understand how websites interlink and the implications of this on the management of their site.
 - become more confident in using MyNewsroom.co.uk software

Curriculum relevance

ICT, Media Studies, English, Citizenship.

Duration

1 hour

Resources

A selection of that day's newspapers.

Access to computers with an internet connection. Please see system requirements on MyNewsroom.co.uk.

Steps

1. Introduction

- Discuss stories in the news this week.
- Remind students that their MyNewsroom.co.uk websites can pass on and explain such stories to other people, and that the more they are updated, the more their users are going to want to look at them.

2. How sites link

- Explain that it is good practice to ensure that existing story pages are not deleted or changed substantially. This is out of consideration for other sites that have created links to these pages.
- Story pages that are out of date should be left on the site but not featured as one of the top three stories on the front page.
- Compare web pages to bricks in a building (the internet). If one brick (page) is removed, other bricks around it (web pages that link to that page) will be damaged.
- Look at a range of websites and explore their links to other sites. Ask the students to consider what would happen if the linked sites deleted pages, and to suggest ways around this.


3. Writing new stories

See steps 2 to 9 in Lesson Plan 2 on how to create new story pages

Encourage students to create links to each other's sites and stories where relevant.

4. Replacing the top three stories

All story pages should be left on the students' sites, but the top three featured stories on each front page can be replaced. To do this, students should:

- Click on the **Web Pages** tab in the top right of their screen
- Open their front page by clicking on its name
- Click in one of the headlines so that a flashing cursor is visible
- Click on the link picker-  **Link** -in the top left of the screen and choose a story page. The headline and standfirst of this story page will now replace the previous one as a link on the front page.

5. Replacing pictures

- Pictures can be replaced by double clicking on a picture box and choosing a new one from the list that appears.
- Teachers can upload new pictures to the system (see Teacher's Handbook).

6. Conclusion

Look at a couple of students' sites and follow their links. Discuss other sites it might be useful for users to find links to and demonstrate how to do this.

Teacher follow up

None of the changes made to the students' websites will be published on the internet until they have been approved by a teacher. This gives you the chance to monitor the content of your students' sites and also give feedback to the students on their work, in effect "marking" it. See the teacher's handbook for information on how to do this.