

The World we Want in 2121

Setting the scene

The World we want in 2121 is a project aimed at enabling pupils to develop a vision of the future that they want to achieve over the next 100 years. In the course of the project, students from four different countries work on their own visions and compare ideas with their peers. The aim is to explore creative visions of a preferred future, to explore our responsibility as “good ancestors” and to learn how to take action for a better future. Our partners in Jenner Park Primary produced a cross-curricular project based on futures thinking and sustainable development as part of this project

How did the project come about?

As part of the 2121 project, teachers were supported to try out a variety of tools to support students in developing a sense of time as part of the WCIA’s *Futures Thinking* teacher training (free and online accessible [here](#)). These tools included looking at one aspect of modern society (jobs, technology, fashion, nature and so on) and predicting what might happen to it using timelines, concept cartoons of the past and future, sustainable storytelling (the “story” of fashion’s development over the last 100 years for example) and future wheels.

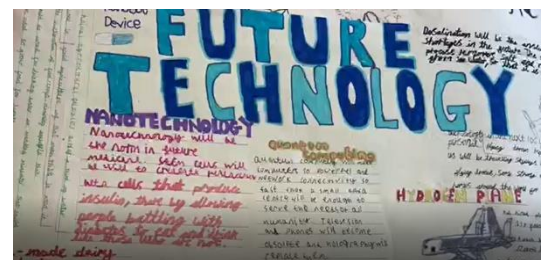
Early Stages



In the early stages, students were invited to create mind-maps of their knowledge of a particular aspect of today’s society and these included: fashion, transport, architecture, plants and technology. This formed a baseline of their initial understanding of the topic. After completing this assessment, they worked in teams to complete presentations of one of those aspects of society to the rest of the class so that the whole group gained a better pictures of how and why their world has developed, including the impact of human decisions on their environment.

Developing the Future

As a result of their learning, they were now at a stage where they could develop a vision of the future, which started with rich pictures and brainstorming, and developed into detailed designs for fashion, plants and even moving cities of the future. Students made models based on these pictures, presenting their ideas and thinking critically and creatively about their ideas.



What was the impact of this project?

Students from Jenner Park demonstrated a greater understanding not only of the future that was possible, but also of their own environment and how it had been affected by the past. As teacher Julia described it “we took the tools from the teacher training and let the children decide what they were interested in”. What it meant was, students were able to engage with aspects of society that really interested them and create something innovative based on new concepts of the future.