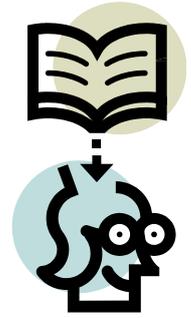**Year 9 Challenge Homework - Research Task**

Aims:
To practise the ICT skills needed for GCSE subjects
To increase your knowledge about a topic which interests you

Task: To research a topic using primary and secondary sources and produce a presentation for an audience of your choice.

Primary research: information you have collected yourself, eg by doing a survey, interviewing someone.

Secondary research: information someone else has collected and recorded, eg in a book, newspaper, TV or radio programme, video or website.

Activities:

1. **Decide on a topic**. It could be a topic you are already studying as part of your school work in other subjects, or one in which you have a personal interest. Here are some ideas to start you off:

   a. Plan a range of activities for a group of students visiting France.

   b. Prepare a report for teenagers and their parents on the differences between age groups in their uses of the Internet **or** communication methods.

   c. Write a short guide to the history of ICT for year 9 students.

   d. Plan a holiday for a group of your friends in a country of your choice. Include costs, timings, things to do, local customs and a list of useful vocabulary in the local language.

Whatever topic you choose, you must have a definite **purpose** and **audience** in mind.

2. **Plan your research**. This could be a list of questions, or a spider diagram, showing what questions you need to answer and where you will look for the answers. Make sure you include both primary and secondary sources in your plan.

3. **Start your research**. Record all the sources you use in a bibliography as you go along. This must include the full URL of any websites you use (the actually websites, not the search engines you used to find them), including any images you find, or the title and author of books, and names of any people. Remember to use both primary and secondary sources.

4. **Make notes.** You must NOT copy and paste, notes must be brief, and in your own words. You can use diagrams, tables, spider diagrams, abbreviations, but you must not simply copy the information you have found.

5. **Organise your notes.** Make a new folder in My Documents to store your notes.

6. **Decide on the best format to present the results.** Think about your audience and purpose. What is the best way to put across what you have found out? This might be a talk with slides, a website, a report, a booklet, poster, leaflet, or booklet.

7. **Prepare your presentation.** Take into account the needs of your audience. Include images and graphs to make your message as clear as possible. Check spellings, grammar and punctuation.

8. **Test your presentation.** Try it out on a member of the intended audience. Ask them for critical comments.

9. **Improve your presentation**, taking into account the comments you received.