

The Radio Show

By Alex

On Tuesday the 27th of October 2009, St Pauls Barnfield scouts visited Accrington Academy to use their Media Studies room to find out about how to produce a radio broadcast. Six enthusiastic scouts set about working through the various elements and roles needed to make an interesting broadcast for a wide range of listeners. The actual program was successfully played to an audience of year 11 at the school.

Getting started

We were accompanied by our two scout leaders, Skip and Kaa, and by a Media Studies technician from the school. When we arrived, we were taught about the various forms of broadcasting, such as radio shows, songs and radio dramas. Then we were each selected for a role to play in the half hour radio show that would be called A-Z show and would be broadcast across the school on their very own 'Goss FM'. I was paired up with another scout, Zac, and we were given the task of presenting the show.

Preparing the Scripts and Timetable

Sam, another member of our troop, worked with the media studies technician to create a draft timetable to order and time-sequence each part of the broadcast. We were then given this timetable for the show, telling us in which order the separate sections of the broadcast would be presented. Zac and I decided what we would say to introduce the show, and also read out a list of what would be coming up later on in the show. After this introduction, we would then hand over to another scout, who would tell the audience about the events which would be taking place across Lancashire, during the week ahead. This meant each broadcaster needed an accurate script to follow, so we made up our own written prompts to help us with our part in the broadcast.

We also had to follow the timetable exactly, and introduce all the songs that our producer, Sam, had picked for us. After writing up our script prompts for the initial introductions at the start of the broadcast, where we had shared the lines between us, Zac and I were each then given another section of the broadcast to present.

Zac would be interviewing Alex, our new scout from Poland, about his life in Poland compared to his life in England and I was given the task of reading out the weather forecast for the next two days. I chose to forecast the weather at opposite ends of Lancashire, in Liverpool and Lancaster. After choosing the weather details I would be reading out, and then adding sounds from the computer, it was time to broadcast our radio show.

The broadcast

We started the show by reminding the audience that they were listening to GOSS FM's A-Z Show, we told our listeners our names. I didn't feel that nervous because I wasn't actually seeing the audience that I was speaking to, because I was simply taking into a microphone.

With this brief introduction over, we played the first song, 'Uprising' by Muse. When the song had finished, we complemented it, and then we handed over to Zack, who read out a Halloween special edition of 'What's on'. This was completed in fine style, the Zack handed back to us, and after another song, King of Leon's, 'Sex on Fire', Jack read out the news and a sports bulletin.

Following on from the sports bulletin, it was time for me to read out my weather forecast, and then Zac did his interview with Alex from Poland. After this the music continued with the Robbie Williams new released, 'Bodies'. This sounded really good.

Further information followed with Zack again, giving a report about our scout group's latest achievements including some details about the upcoming 2 nights stay at Bowley Scout Centre in a special 'Halloween Camp' which was planned for Friday 30th October to Sunday 1st of November.

Finally, we played our last song then had a brief chat about how excited the Halloween camp was making us feel, concluding the show with our goodbyes to the listeners. We had done it!

After thoughts

Looking back, I have learned a lot from our day at the Accrington Academy, and I really enjoyed it. Now that I understand much more about how media works, I like the idea of getting more involved in the running of a radio station, because you can make it original in any way you like, and you can express your own opinion. The experience has also convinced me that I would like to take Media Studies as a GCSE in school. Overall, I have really enjoyed my experience as a radio presenter.

