Planning and making your film

Step 1. Set the parameters. How long does your film need to go for? Does it need to be live-action or can you use stop-motion animation, create a photo montage etc.

Step 2. Come up with an idea. Brainstorm ideas as a class or a small group. Think big within the constraints of what’s possible or feasible considering your resources (e.g. timeframe, budget and equipment). “Creativity is putting your imagination to work, and it’s produced the most extraordinary results in human culture.”
– Sir Ken Robinson

Step 3. Planning your film. What will the message be? Who will do what? How will you do it? Use the table on the Student Worksheet to help you plan your film.

Step 4. Storyboarding and writing a script. Storyboarding means visually planning your film. Sketch out scenes from your film showing characters and events. Add ideas you have for visuals and audio (such as music or sound effects). When you’re happy with the structure and flow of your film, you can write your script.

Step 5. Sets, props and costumes. By now you know what will be happening in your film so it’s time to start planning what sets, props and costumes you will need. What sets you need depend on the type of film you are making (e.g. short film, animation or documentary). You may be able to use locations around your school or in your neighbourhood as sets (just check there is enough light for filming and that it is free from background noise). Or you may want to make some sets if you can’t find suitable locations. The same goes for props and costumes: you may be able to use what you’ve already got. Create a list of what you need and check if anyone in the group can lend items for the making of the film. And check with the drama department to see what they’ve got before you start buying or making loads of stuff. *

Step 6. Practicing lines. Knowing your lines before you start filming will make the filming process much easier and faster. Create cue cards for actors if needed and encourage actors to rehearse scenes.

Step 7. Production. It’s time to SHOOT! You don’t need a whizz-bang blockbuster quality video camera to make a great film - a mobile phone, camera, computer, ipod, or ipad will work very well too.
Post-production

**Step 8. Editing and post production.** It’s time to pull all your scenes together, add music and polish the overall look and feel of your film. Use editing software to:
- Put the scenes together
- Add music, edit sound (be sure to use music not restricted by copyright)
- Add special effects
- Add credits

**Step 9. Sharing.** Hold some screenings in your school to get some feedback. If suggestions for improvement are made, consider making changes.