**Tips for making animations**

* Photocopy some A3 or A4 storyboarding sheets – aids planning and introduces idea of limiting the number of steps to be sketched or photographed. NB not all students find this helpful and prefer having the modelling clay immediately to explore their ideas with.
* Have a sheet of white A3 under any plasticine to protect tables, act as a background etc.
* If you can, figure out a way of holding the camera in the same place e.g. a clamp stand, a tripod, a pile of books or use a ‘reminder’ mark on the background paper.
* Use plastic pots or take-away food containers to protect models and unused plasticine between lessons
* Allow time for discussion both during the making and during the publishing of results – we think that this is important to understanding the science, practicing the vocabulary etc.
* Trial what you plan to do yourself – use small steps e.g. 3 drawings or 4 photos to get the hang of the software.
* Drawing is quicker than modelling in plasticine as is writing labels on paper or card rather than adding text to the images afterwards via the computer but results don’t usually look as professional.
* Adding sounds can be time consuming. Windows Moviemaker will allow you to add sound files or record a voice over. Free sound effects are available at <http://www.freesound.org/> - you need to register though so it may be better to prepare a limited selection beforehand.
* Music clips for use in school projects can be found at <http://www.freeplaymusic.com/> - site is suitable for good readers only.
* See the PGCE students’ Facebook site for links to examples as I find them <http://www.facebook.com/groups/298278806951965/>