

# MAKE A MAG!!!!

Ever wished you could make your own mag, like the kids in *GingerSnaps*? Here's how!



## FIND YOUR TEAM!

You can do a mag on your own if you have enough ideas, inspiration and time . . . but it's fun to have a team to work with! You need all kinds of people to make it cool . . .

**Dreamers** – they're the people with all the best ideas

**Writers** – to do the written bits!

**Artists** – to do lettering, graphics, illustrations, manga, etc

**Digi photographers** – pics of real people will make your mag come to life!

**Organized people** – to edit, plan and chase overdue features, etc

**Confident people** – to get adverts, arrange cool comps with local businesses and decide how/when to sell the mag

**Nosy people!!!** – they make the world's best investigative reporters . . . They can get out there and unearth the teachers' dark secrets!!!

## BE PREPARED ...

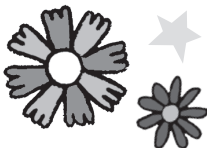


Set a date for your first meeting and invite a friendly teacher/librarian to help things run smoothly. Ask people to:

- ★ Bring along a couple of their fave magazines
- ★ Make a list of ideas for the mag
- ★ Choose some possible mag names
- ★ List their skills/interests/strengths
- ★ Think about the kind of jobs they'd like to do



## FIRST MEETING!



- ★ Get people to talk about what THEY would like to see in the magazine – the more varied it is, the more people it will appeal to.
- ★ Decide WHO you will sell the mag to, and right from the start, think about them and what they might want.
- ★ Choose a name. Jot suggestions down, and vote for a favourite.
- ★ Divide up jobs. People can do a bit of everything, but it helps if you have one person to be in charge of certain things ...

## THE ED

will be someone organized – to plan, edit, chase up missing pages, make sure pages are laid out and passed on to be printed/copied.



## ART ED

will be someone creative to design a fab cover, make sure every page looks great, and to produce posters to advertise the mag.



## ADVERTISING ED

will be someone confident and good at maths, who will ask local businesses to place ads to raise money and help your mag cover its costs.



The eds might be doing other things too, but they have the final say about certain things. Choose people with the right skills for these jobs . . . or, if you prefer, do it all yourself!

The rest of the team can choose from the following, or be more than one thing . . . How about . . . reporter/journalist, artist, designer, agony aunt, photographer, writer, illustrator, reviewer . . . or anything else you can think of!!!

reporter

illustrator

designer

journalist

artist

agony aunt

photographer

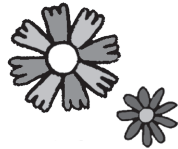
writer

reviewer





**IDEAS!**



Leaf through some of your fave mags, jot ideas down and discuss.

## You might choose to have . . .

- ★ An interview with a local celeb/sports-star/musician/writer
- ★ Photo interviews with kids in your school (if you include real pupils in your mag, more people will buy it!)
- ★ Teacher features (fun, inspiring or embarrassing . . . you choose!)
- ★ Features about fave interests/hobbies
- ★ A letters page
- ★ A problem page (use false names or make it a 'spoof' problem page)
- ★ A fashion spread
- ★ A sports feature
- ★ A makeover (of the head? of the dinner ladies? of the kids?)
- ★ A poster (some original artwork?)
- ★ A competition or puzzles/Sudoku
- ★ A short story
- ★ A quiz
- ★ A jokes page
- ★ Book/film/computer games/CD reviews
- ★ Anything else you can think of!!!





## STILL STUCK?

**Photo interviews** . . . a survey on school dinners/ uniform/where people are going on hols/what people want for Xmas/fave hobbies/fave subjects/what new reception or P1 kids think of the school, or what Year Seven or S1 kids think of secondary . . . or anything else you can think of! Take some digi photos of the people you interview and arrange these on the page with quotes beside . . .

**Teacher features** . . . run a comp to see if pupils can recognize teachers from their baby/childhood photos, ask teachers to describe their most embarrassing moments or run a quiz to match teachers to their fave hobbies/bands/books . . .

**Features** . . . in-depth photo features about cool hobbies, photo reports about events in school like World Book Day where kids dress as their fave fictional characters, non-uniform days, theatre visits, trips, etc.

**Fashion** . . . redesign the school uniform like Shannon in *GingerSnaps* . . . create some recycled fashion . . . go futuristic . . . the sky's the limit!

Decide who is doing what, and give everyone a deadline to hand in their finished work all neatly printed out.



## PLAN IT . . .



Sounds like a yawn, but unless you plan, you won't have a clue what goes where in the mag . . . or be able to keep track of what's been handed in, what still has to be done and which spaces need to be filled at the last minute . . .

**Decide how many pages** your mag will have and make a 'dummy' mag from plain A4 sheets . . . it should look like a blank white scrapbook! As each page is finished, photocopy it into the 'dummy' mag. As it builds up, you will be able to see what your mag will look like – and spot any gaps!

**Decide on a price!** Charge at least £1 for a twelve- or sixteen-page mag . . . affordable, but not too cheap!!! This will help cover printing costs.

## ART ED . . .



The art ed makes sure the mag looks cool! Decide whether to have a colour cover (depends on whether your school has access to a colour copier!). The inside is best left as black and white, unless you have unlimited funds!

**The cover** If your mag has a theme, i.e. Christmas, Jonas Brothers, fashion, that can be a starting point for your design . . . try a shot of the head in a Santa hat for a Christmas issue, or a painting of a Christmas tree! If it doesn't have a theme, try taking one of the features as inspiration . . . a pic from your fashion shoot or a cool manga drawing by the quiet, arty girl in Year Eight? Get thinking . . . get creating!

Use lettering that stands out, or pick out a font from your computer. And don't forget to put the price on!



For the **inside pages**, use cut and paste to create your pages. Stick down writing/artwork on to an A4 sheet to make a great design! Use photocopies to make images bigger/smaller, cut round images . . .

up to you. Chop typed bits into shorter sections to fit the shapes too! Remember to add page numbers at the bottom of each page!



Adverts bring in money to cover the cost of printing/ photocopying. Ask if teachers, parents or local businesses would like to place an ad in the mag. Set prices at maybe £5 for a quarter of a page, £10 for a half and £20 for a full page?

You can also organize competitions and ask local shops to donate prizes . . . if you mention who donated the choccy/books/paints, that's free publicity for the company, so many will be happy to help. Give it a go!

The advertising ed can also work with the art ed to make publicity posters and create a buzz about the mag!





## GOING TO PRINT. . .



All the pages are in, laid out, illustrated and checked for mistakes. Everything has been signed off, publicity posters are up . . . you just need to print it!

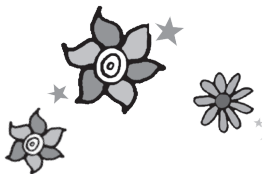
Decide how many copies you think you can sell. How many kids are in the school? Are they keen? Will teachers and parents buy copies too? Ask a teacher/ adult for advice.

A friendly teacher/librarian can ask the school office to photocopy your pages or arrange for them to be printed in the school repro department. Few schools would refuse!

Allow plenty of time to sort pages in the right order and staple together!



## ON SALE!



Sell your mag from a playground stall, a table outside the office, even class to -class. Watch as the buzz spreads around the school . . . then celebrate! You did it!!!!

