

Build The News is a coding and journalism event series run by the digital team at The Times & The Sunday Times. Its aim is to expose our journalists to new ways of working and the possibilities of digital tools, provide the opportunity to engage student journalists and mentor them in how to build digital editorial projects, promote the title brands further among students and open us up to working more collaboratively with other companies.



Our typical schedule for the event is an initial brief for students - giving them guidance around potential projects that they could build over a two day period.

The main aim is collaboration - bringing together student journalists and student developers to work together. This remains a critically underserved area of UK journalism education, and an example of where academia is far behind the industry. The Times & The Sunday Times has a central digital team where this type of working is encouraged, and many other organisations have similar teams. Students, however, are unaccustomed to this but never short of ideas.

Once students have been given a rough brief work begins, and students are under pressure to deliver something that is forward-thinking and practical.

Past winners' projects include:

- A sharing system for the digital sunday paper
- A mobile text system to alert news desks if a foreign reporter was in trouble
- A plugin to link reader sentiment to newsroom decisions

We have now hosted three Build The News events, hosted over 300 students and partnered with companies like Livefyre, Shorthand and Soundcloud.

A collection of projects from the event in March 2015 [can be seen here](#), and a video of the first event [can be seen here](#).

[Students have been vocal](#) about their feedback on the event, with [many of them blogging their thoughts](#), as well as more experienced practitioners like [Elliot Bentley from the Wall Street Journal](#).

