**Raspberry Pi**

This is Raspberry Pi, an exciting project to give any child in the country perhaps. A cheap computer that they can use to learn to programme & Evan Upton who has been working on this for quite a long time ….. Just take us through the development…

It started like this …

Indeed, at the end here we have R.P. from about 2006.

The first attempt to build something, maybe about a hundredth as powerful as where we’d get to eventually.

It was like that last May – it’s got a bit bigger since then – got bigger and then finally it’ s got slightly smaller.

What is this?

Ok, so this is basically a PC on a board the size of a credit card. In the middle you’ve got a processor and some memory. Over here you have network connections and USB and on either side you have connectors to connect to either a digital television or an old style analogue television.  
And let’s put it together …

So, first of all, HDMI into the digital connector. I’ve got a mouse and a keyboard that can go in there. These are just regular PC peripherals.

And then finally, you’ve got some power..

For power we use a mobile phone charger.

So how long is it going to take?

Oh we see some code appearing …

So while it boots up, what’s it got on it? - it’s coming off this SD card …

Indeed, so it’s got a version of the Linux operating system. It doesn’t run windows – it runs a free available operating system called (‘debbyand linux’???).

It’s booted up. Can you just give some examples of what they’ll have access to?

OK. So up here we have a common educational software package which is called Scratch and Scratch was developed at MIT in the US and it’s a platform for children to get experience with programming but it’s maybe not as intimidating as commercial programming tools.

So you’ve got a 25, 26 pound computer and immediately you’ve got a playground for children to learn to code.

Indeed, so we’ve got a computer programme written in the Scratch programming language and the idea of the computer programme is that it controls this little buggy as it goes round this track. It’s following the boundary between the green and the red.

And just finally, what are your ambitions for this from now on? This is not the final phase, is it? It will actually covered in something…

Yes. I guess you could call this a developer release. It’s a bare board. Before we go and deploy it widely into schools we expect to put a case on it. Obviously, we’d like to put some sort of transparent case on it because our experience is children like to be able to see what they are working with.

And that’s the Raspberry Pi … & you are building a community of developers and you hope that they’ll make it better.

Absolutely, we hope that the first people to buy these will use them to write software on. The subsequent consumers….. it will give them access to a more – kind of – full teacher platform