Students as digital change agents

This exemplar is relevant to Digital Student challenge:

Engage in dialogue with students about their digital experience and empower students to effect change in their digital environment

The University of Exeter has a long-standing and nationally recognised commitment to students working as change agents in the learning environment. A recent project, building on several digital literacy initiatives at the University, has some change agents working as Technology Champions in departments and colleges. The responsibilities of each Technology Champion are negotiable, depending on the students' own interests and the needs of their department. All are involved in defining and then leading on the changes that students want to see in their digital experience. For example, MEd students were struggling with some of the digital tools they were asked to use until one of the Technology Champions organised a series of informal workshops, using padlet to collate requests for content. Another champion helped to organise a technologies showcase in the College of Humanities which attracted over 40 participants. Champions have run schemes to promote technology skills, organised gaming tournaments to support integration, developed a database for archaeology resources and raised awareness of online safety issues.

The students involved will benefit from tailored training sessions, a chance to develop entrepreneurial and communication skills, and pathways to accredited awards (the Exeter Award or the Exeter Leaders Award) of the kind that employers increasingly value alongside a degree.

How does this meet the challenge?
- Students' digital capabilities and the contribution these make to the University community are fully recognised.
- Interventions are tailored to the needs of the department or college – digital changes are fostered as appropriate and needed.
- The students involved gain both digital and personal skills that are valued by employers.
- Other students benefit from peer support and resources relevant to their concerns.

Find out more
- About the technology champions

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