Digital student exemplars
Enhancing the digital experience of students

This case study is relevant to the digital student challenge:
Deliver a relevant digital curriculum

Digital approaches to English and mathematics - using technology to support learners on apprenticeship and traineeship programmes

This project has brought together six partner organisations led and supported by the Association of Colleges in the eastern region to explore ways in which digital technology can be used to improve the delivery of English and mathematics on apprenticeship and traineeship programmes. Each of the partner organisations identified two practitioners to participate in collaborative continuous professional development (CPD), conduct action research and share the skills, knowledge and impact of their use of learning technologies in the classroom or workplace. These practitioners and their colleagues were further supported through the opportunity to participate in two linked online CPD modules developed in partnership with MacTrac, a division of MacMillan Digital, which explores technical and pedagogical aspects of live online teaching and support.

The project also involves employers, managers and governors working collaboratively across the partnership to ensure that solutions to technical or institutional barriers are prioritised, captured and used to inform strategic development and decision-making in relation to learning technology across the project group and the wider education and training sector. A third online module for leaders, managers and governors exploring strategic aspects of digital transformation was developed in partnership with Schemeta.

The project has explored a variety of technologies and digital strategies including:

» Use of video conferencing packages to provide online support
» Development of blended learning material using free content creation tools
» Use of screencasting to give learner feedback and create video tutorials
» Improvement of VLEs to make them more interactive and engaging
» Piloting of electronic individual learning plans (ILPs) with workplace learners

Partner providers working on this project include: KEITS, Cambridge Regional College, Harlow College, Bedford College, Cambridgeshire ACL and Essex ACL.
This project is part of the learning futures programme, commissioned and funded by the Education and Training Foundation.

How does this meet the challenge?

» English and mathematics support is a key feature of the further education curriculum and is an essential component of apprenticeships and traineeships

» The use of digital technology is used to ensure that learners benefit from a coherent programme of support in English and mathematics whether they are at college or on work placement

» Practitioners involved in the delivery of apprenticeship and traineeships have opportunities to develop and share their skills in using digital technology to deliver English and mathematics support

» Leaders, managers and governors are better informed about the opportunities and challenges offered by digital technology so that they can take more effective strategic decisions

Find out more:

The learning futures programme: Digital approaches to English and mathematics - using technology to support learners on apprenticeship and traineeship programmes.

A website containing further information and resources will be available from late September 2015. In the meantime, please contact Mark Barnsley with any enquiries.

Contact:

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