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# Digital student exemplars

## Enhancing the digital experience of students

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This case study is relevant to the digital student challenge:

### Deliver a relevant digital curriculum

## A holistic approach to embedding technology in curriculum design and planning processes

### Scheduled blended learning for all level 2 and 3 curricula

One aspect of the **FELTAG report** challenged colleges and training organisations to achieve “a 10 % wholly-online component” in all programmes from September 2015. At **Heart of Worcestershire College** they are already meeting this target and are closing in on 20% in a number of key areas.

The key to this is their scheduled online learning and assessment (SOLA) initiative of blended learning, a cross-college approach whereby all full-time level 2 and level 3 courses have some elements delivered online. Typically this is 10 % for level 2 courses and 15 per cent for level 3 courses.

Key to the success of the SOLA model is the clarity of the design and structure of online learning, the clarity of the instructions and effective support:

- » Curriculum staff are supported in the design process by the SOLA team and a range of media types is used. Assessment is managed through Moodle tools
- » Students are supported to work in this way with support and scheduled weekly sessions for working on SOLA activities in college learning centres

The SOLA model has helped the college achieve efficiency savings of over £200,000 per year in the four years since blended learning was implemented and success rates have also risen by over 12 %.

### Wider sector sharing and collaboration

The Heart of Worcestershire College is now in its fourth year of running a cross college blended learning curriculum and since the FELTAG report was published they have had enquiries from a number of other colleges about the resources they are developing. In response to this they have set up a **Moodle site** with examples of content, activities and assessments from a number of our courses. All the courses are available via guest access without users needing to set up any accounts.

One of the key challenges that the Heart of Worcestershire College has faced is the lack of good quality learning content that has been designed specifically for the further education curriculum. They have found that the most effective content is interactive learning objects that can run across different learning platforms and devices but that the costs of developing these kinds of resources are too high to make it economically viable for individual colleges to develop. They have therefore proposed the setting up of a **blended learning consortium** run on democratic principles for colleges to pool resources to co-create content.

## How does this meet the challenge?

The SOLA model:

- » Exposes students and staff to digital approaches in a supported environment
- » Helps students to develop crucial independent learning skills
- » Is embedded in the curriculum so learners are working on tasks relevant to the subjects they have signed up to study rather than generic skills
- » Ensures access to the resources learners need is available through timetabled sessions

## Find out more:

- » View examples of content, activities and assessments from a number of our courses on the Heart of Worcestershire College **Moodle site**
- » Further details on the **blended learning consortium**

## Contact:

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