
Digital student exemplars

Enhancing the digital experience of students

This case study is relevant to the digital student challenge:

Deliver an inclusive digital student experience

Changing the learner experience using everyday technologies

Megan, a student at **East Durham College**, was awarded a **TechDis ambassador** award in 2014. Megan completed her level 2 diploma in animal care and moved to the level 3 course. Megan has a hearing impairment which had a negative impact on her previous education experience, leaving her frustrated and labelled as 'disruptive'.

Megan was encouraged to use the virtual learning environment (VLE) to assist her studies and has found it helpful that all of her work and lessons are available from the VLE. The change of approach as well as the encouragement to use every day technology like mobile phones has made a big difference to Megan's experience. Examples of how Megan is using technology to enhance her learning include:

- » Using her mobile phone during taught sessions to look up facts and record lessons. Listening to the recordings later using sound-enhancing software aids understanding and provides clarification
- » Use of **ATbar**, an open-source, cross-browser toolbar helps users customise the way they view and interact with web pages. It has enabled Megan to change the colour of the screen, the style and size of the font, making the text clearer and easier to read
- » Quizzes on the VLE help Megan to check her learning and revisit topics as necessary
- » Sound enhancing software and subtitles also enable Megan to watch videos on the VLE
- » Responsive tutorial help is available via the VLE communication forums

How does this meet the challenge?

- » A combination of use of readily available technologies, consideration of individual learning needs and effective pedagogical design has made a big difference to the learning experience of this particular student, enhanced the likelihood of achievement and progression and has potentially made learning more accessible to a wider group of students

- » Mobile technology and use of the VLE have been used to empower Megan to take control of her own learning and develop independent learning skills
- » Used in this way, technology also has the capacity to address wider issues like social inclusion

Find out more:

Jisc guide on [supporting learners with deafness and hearing loss](#)

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