
Digital student exemplars

Enhancing the digital experience of students

This case study is relevant to the digital student challenge:

Deliver a robust, flexible, digital environment

Unified communication system enhances opportunities to develop employability skills

East Berkshire College rolled out Microsoft Lync 2013 Unified Communication™ system during the 2014/15 academic year. As well as providing substantial cost savings, the unified communication system offers many potential advantages for teaching, learning and improving the employability of students including:

- » An improved student experience through a single tool for instant messaging (IM) called Presence which provides information on the current availability of your contacts, audio and video conferencing at no additional cost
- » Enhanced opportunities for remote teaching, learning and training
- » The ability to record video conferences and video training and upload and link these to Moodle
- » Students can join courses remotely (eg from home) without incurring call charges
- » Chat rooms allow teachers to monitor and contribute to student discussions. These are available throughout the term and facilitate knowledge sharing
- » Improved collaboration between teachers, learners and employers, and between peers; whether on or off campus
- » Bringing in remote external subject matter experts to the classroom via audio and video conferencing
- » Enhanced opportunities for online learning anywhere in the world at no additional cost
- » Students develop their employability and life skills through use of industry-standard software; developing collaboration skills that are commonly used in industry today

How does this meet the challenge?

- » The adoption of software that supports modern approaches to communication is making a valuable contribution to what students 'need to succeed' in terms of access to industry-standard software.
- » The use of software provides opportunities to embed employability skills into the curriculum

- » Enhanced communication facilitates improves collaboration between peers and teaching staff
- » This approach means that all curriculum areas benefit equally from digital resourcing, providing parity of experience for students regardless of their choice of study programme

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