

Harlow College

Developing digital capability in partnership with staff and learners

Transcript of video case study on use of Jisc's building digital capability service

Karen Spencer, principal and chief executive: We've achieved lots of things through the use of technology. That might be improving a business process, so we have online enrolments, right the way through to how students learn in the classroom and being able to learn outside of the classroom. But at a very simplistic level, we've done things like save three million sheets of paper which not only saves money, it saves the environment as well. So we've seen a whole host of benefits and I really, really believe that what we are doing is making young people better prepared for the workplace of the future. We have also seen improvements in retention rates, in achievement rates and also in value-added so that's an absolutely great thing for our individual students to.

Dave Monk: e-learning development coordinator: What we're really looking at is helping to develop the confidence of our students and our staff and the leaders and the leaders, digital leaders and ambassadors have a key role to play in that. They're helping our learners to personalise their learning more, helping them to carry out more effective research and providing them with the capability that they need really to become more effective learners and, in the end, hopefully more effective sort of employees in the workplace. I think it's really important that you value what the students can bring to bear and to welcome the students into this, to give them the kind of framework and structure where they can actually prosper and develop.

Madison, student of performing arts: The benefits of being a digital ambassador are that it helps you to build your confidence.

Emma, level 3 student, creative media production: I have gained more communication skills.

Jack, student, A level sociology, business and law: It's going to be making me ready for work because technology is going to be everywhere in the workplace and it's just making me a step up compared to everyone else.

Kelly Edwards, director of professional development: We offer a range of support for our staff including five cross college staff development days or our staff are offered a huge range of digital sessions that would support our staff that are new to the college, our established staff who just need upskilling again. Alongside that we have CPD sessions, at the moment they are CPD Tuesdays, where our staff can come in and utilise the digital skills and apply those to learning, teaching and assessment sessions. We also have digital drop-in sessions, they're 15-minute sessions where our staff can come in and look at specific apps and learning tools and really think about how they can use those apps and learning tools in their classroom. The environment where our staff are happy to be innovative and happy to try things out and are happy to have people like myself go into their classroom, watch what's going on and then receive the feedback that enables them to move on and be successful. What we've managed to do is embed digital into traditional teaching, learning and assessment. I think our plan is to no longer call it digital learning, it's just learning, teaching and assessment in the classroom.

Dave Monk: e-learning development coordinator: So, the transformation has been amazing, and to be part of that and to see where it's developing, where we're going with that, I think has been an absolute joy.

Karen Spencer, principal and chief executive: The commitment of staff to actually do things differently, to innovate, to change their curriculum, and for that to make a real difference to students' career opportunities. I really, really believe that what we're doing is making young people better prepared for the workplace of the future. But I personally couldn't do it without my staff, and I have a fantastic team in my digital team that that has made a real, real difference to this project and to young people.

To find out how Jisc is supporting colleges in developing their approaches to digital capability, visit digitalcapability.jisc.ac.uk