

Session Report Form

OUR GUIDING QUESTION: What learning arrangements can we design that will achieve a step change in engagement and integration for all students?

Session Name: Students with their own laptops - what works, what doesn't?

Summary of the guiding ideas arising from your session:
eg We trust learners to take responsibility for their learning

Students are engaged more when they can use ICT
Personalised learning can take place more effectively
Laptops mean that it may not be necessary to always have a subject teacher
Group sizes could be larger
The content of the VLE must be good and you cannot expect teachers to do it all
Students can learn from each other – teachers do not need to be good at ICT
Evidence of learning can be easily stored – sound, video, etc
Learning spaces may not necessarily have to be traditional classrooms
Manageability is crucial eg having a fast wireless network, laptops with a good battery life and storage facilities to name but a few
Laptops cost money.

Please describe the pedagogic design of your idea
eg Key teaching and learning principles, learning arrangements, workforce deployment/development, etc

This project will start in September 2008. All students in 3 tutor groups – one from each year group (Years 7 to 9) will have a laptop to use in lessons and at home. As well as using these when appropriate they will develop their own learning blog allowing them to have learning conversations with other students and tutors. Staff will identify software to enhance teaching and learning. The new Asus Minibooks will be used which are both cost effective and portable.

A group of about 12 subject teachers will teach/support these three groups.

The project will focus on personalising learning, engaging students in their learning and focusing on optimising learning opportunities.

PASS, an online survey tool, will be used to look at attitudes to learning and school

Please describe the curriculum design of your idea
eg How engagement & integration - made possible through vibrant pedagogy - is reflected in content selection/balance/sequencing

We aim to start from where we are currently at with subjects being taught in a relatively traditional setting in year groups. By timetabling the same teachers to

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teach the three groups we form a relatively autonomous group who can support each other and try out new ideas and approaches.

We aim to encourage greater cross curricula work between subjects and also across the three year groups. We aim to use ICT to enhance and extend learning opportunities and to record learning outcomes.

Please describe any implementation issues you see

eg Mechanisms to avoid 'roadblocks', priority strategic development areas

This project will bottom up approach with staff on the project being facilitated and encouraged to try out new ideas with adequate support and training.

Managing the security and storage of 95 plus laptops will cause some concern and issues particularly getting the support of parents.

Training will be built in with the project team meeting at least once every 3 weeks.

Changing the mindsets of teachers will be difficult even given their willingness to take part. Encouraging them to take risks will be important.

Thank you!

Please leave a copy (Paper or digital) of this report with the facilitator before you leave today.