LSIS Leadership in Technology (LIT) grant based intervention Impact study template

Provider name & contact details	Yorkshire Coast College part of the Grimsby Institute
LIT Project title	SPORE

The project	
What problem or issue you were trying to resolve or improve with this project	The use of technology to provide students with their own learning blogs in sports science. To create a podcast and blog area for fictitious characters 'Ranger Jane and Ranger Bob' following their work at the Lincolnshire Regional Activity Centre
Why did you go for a technology-based solution	The technology solution in the first place allowed flexible access to students reflective blogs online. Allowing them to incorporate video easily into their coursework and requiring no additional software. For 'Ranger Jane and Ranger Bob' the blog technology also supports RSS and iTunes integration making it easy for external schools to be able to follow the Rangers activity and download materials for later offline use. These materials automatically go into a user's iT resource.
What did the project cost: LSIS funding + your organisation's contribution	The project contributed £6000, £2400 was spent on an external project mentor. The College contributed 8 days of staff time.
Describe what you did and what happened	The project had two distinct areas. One was for sport science students to use reflective blogs and to create wikis. The other was to provide a blog area for the fictional 'Ranger Jane and Ranger Bob' characters.

In sport science each student was given their own online work area. In this area the students could use video and weblinks to create a more accurate reflection of the practical work that they were carrying out. Each student also had their own blog area that they used for an exercise diary.

Each student had access to their own area only, this was shared with the course tutor. |

	For Ranger Jane and Ranger Bob an online blog was created to exploit nature based CCTV at the Lincolnshire Rural Activity Centre. This facility includes the ability to download podcasts and follow activity through RSS new feeds. This is being followed by some of the schools that visit the activity centre. To see the wiki and blog http://wiki.ycoastco.ac.uk/groups/rangerjaneandrangerbob/
The benefits and impact	
What benefits/ impact has the project had on:::	a. the work/ effectiveness of your organisation The project has enabled us to explore the use of richer student generated material rather than concentrate on the usual written form of assessment. Using the wiki and blog technology has lead to this being applied for learner voice, to create web based areas for other curriculum areas and closer links with our feeder schools.
	b. the cost/ efficiency of activities The project is based around the simple use of video and audio and as such has levered the use of the kinds of technologies that are available and low cost, such as digital cameras. The biggest individual cost was the external mentor – this also had the biggest impact.
	c. any other aspect of your work

What contribution to the success / smooth running of the project was made by:	LSIS funding essential Your mentor essential LSIS Associate a lot
Do you have any comments on the funding, mentor or LSIS Associate.	The mentoring model provides and external view and brings additional expertise to the project. In train with the associate this helped keep the project focused on outcomes. The external mentor added value to staff development as well as helping to snag issues and produce materials. Our mentor was essential to the project.
What lessons did you learn / what tips would you give to other providers	That the mentor system with institutional buy in worked very well. Often an external view can bring a refreshing newness to staff development and problem solving
Telling others	
What have you done to share /disseminate this project with others in the sector	We have attended an LSIS dissemination event (Birmingham), and also gave a demonstration at RSC YH eLearning event. It has been publicised internally and has lead to other departments engaging with the technology
Provide a quote on your experience of the LSIS LIT project.	Leadership in Technology should be exactly that. LSIS have supported a project that sought to prove the pedagogy of new methods of working online for education. Students and Staff have enjoyed being engaged with the project. The seed funding to see this project through has now had benefits for the greater college community as these techniques are being explored in other areas.
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publications?	
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