LSIS Leadership in Technology (LIT) grant based intervention March 2013

Provider name & contact details	**Loughborough College** 01509 215 831
LIT Project title	Tablets in Education (including Motor Vehicle Workshop)

The project	
What problem or issue you were trying to resolve or improve with this project	The project was to facilitate learners, to give the ability to create work with one device, regardless of location. This could be in a classroom or a workshop. Transforming the learning environment to be more recognisable to a modern day learner, using a medium they are more familiar with. To improve learners retention of information and ultimately enhance the learning experience. To provide a catalyst for student creativity.
Why did you go for a technology-based solution	The technology based solution was adopted, due to learners being used to a high level of technology in their social life and when studying at college, using a library book and a note pad, this felt like a step back for them. The solution to the problem needed to be scalable, to ensure the development of the learning environment did not become static.
What did the project cost: LSIS funding + your organisation's contribution	LSIS funding £6000 Loughborough College £6600 on iPads Staff time @£35 an hour x 85 hours = £2975 £150 on Software and hardware

Describe what you did and what happened	We developed a learning style that allowed the learners autonomy, to be guided through a journey of self-discovery. **Positive outcomes:** Learners pleased with the opportunity to use such highly technological equipment particularly in the workshop to further develop there learning ability. The use of Apps to guide learners post instruction (when the tutor is facilitating around the group) The one hardware for all of the iPad has meant reduced issues of compatibility and the need for the students to use multiple devices, due to this all of what they need is in one small classroom and workshop friendly device The cases fitted to the iPads have ensured a reduced risk of damage in all situations when the students are using them. Learners have been able to change colours and fonts to best suit their needs and reduce the embarrassment factor of having special materials made for them, they download their own app. Learners have been able to do research instantly. If one does not understand something alternative solutions have been found on the iPad to ensure learners can instantly start to develop their learning style with the tutor, creating an excellent demonstration of their skills. The excitement factor is recognisable with the use of the iPad this yet could still be down to a novelty factor, although what is clear to see is this is a medium of communication and recording of work (notes, video, photograph, Mahara, screen shots and apps, all on one device, with the speed and convenience for the relative cheapness of an iPad) compared to buying fast computer cameras and lots of expensive software. The further development of this is that we are now working with another major college and exploring international business solutions to utilise the new learning styles in a more dynamic way.
The benefits and impact	

What benefits/ impact has the project had on:::	**a. the work/ effectiveness of your organisation** Attendance has increased to near a 100% in the group from 65% The learners have more understanding of their qualifications due to the access to the online portfolio. Learners have also now been using solutions to enhance their retention of information via bringing together their video and picture evidence with their notes, this worked particularly well connecting the class room work to the practical skills in the workshop. The learners were able to stay engaged longer due to the QR codes to direct them to their task and learning resources. Leaners were much more enthused when coming into a class, due to the use of the iPad and the technology that gave guided control to the learning of an individual

	b. the cost/ efficiency of activities
	
	    • Learners now working more task focused
	    • As learners were using these devices they students were able to work more autonomously, allowing learners who require more support for learning to gain the tutors full attention, as the majority of the group were working on differentiated tasks with only a need for minimal tutor input
	    • The ability to access the notes from cloud based systems on personal devices. Taking Learning outside of the class room to further stretch and challenge the learning experience. This also allowed a very unusual way to show student work regularly to their parents.
	    • The capture of notes was made more user friendly for this pilot group, due to workshop notes being captured on cloud based note taking solutions and incorporating their video and pictorial evidence in to one easy use package that was less prone to being lost as it was cloud based and viewable on their phones too.

	c. any other aspect of your work This project has given credence to the use of this medium for learning, that now can be further developed from this embryonic stage, as the discovery of this technology for us has proved that there is far more potential for use in a learning environment, that is only limited by the user's imagination. This has as previously mentioned created a catalyst for change, meaning that we have many more developments to further improve, taking the learning beyond the normal and more in keeping with the technological world we now work and live in, allowing the learners to be more employable in the digital age.
What contribution to the success / smooth running of the project was made by:	LSIS funding a little / some/ a lot / <mark>essential</mark> Your mentor a little / <mark>some/ a lot</mark> / essential LSIS Associate a little / <mark>some/ a lot</mark> / essential
Do you have any comments on the funding, mentor or LSIS Associate.	Without the funding this project wouldn't have been possible, as the mentor couldn't have been employed and the potential of learning with iPads couldn't have been explored. The mentor has been excellent, working beyond the amount of time for which he was paid, and delivering an excellent service to the college. The LSIS associate has supported the process throughout, meeting the college on 3 occasions and asking the relevant difficult questions to help shape decisions, as well as offering an alternative perspective to some of the issues that has helped with the final solution, as well as helping the staff involved to reflect on the process and develop themselves as individuals.
What lessons did you learn / what tips would you give to other providers	The WIFI reliability is key to this project. Having support in house to help ensure the technology was used to its potential (particularly helping with the learning style)
Telling others	
What have you done to share /disseminate this project with others in the sector	We have presented the project at the LSIS conference. We also will gladly allow other providers to work with us or visit us to assist in the development of their own projects going forward

Provide a quote on your experience of the LSIS LIT project.	This project with the support of the external mentor and the critical friend, has given the college the freedom and support to carry out a challenging, exploratory project that wasn't guaranteed to work, but if it does work could yield huge benefits for the college and other education providers.
Are you happy for us to use this and your contact details for marketing and publications?	Yes
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