

An Introduction to Xerte (Online Toolkit)

Xerte Online Toolkit is an open source content creation tool that allows you to create multi-media rich and interactive learning objects using a series of templates. This short CPD session introduces you to Xerte and some of the features that make learning so accessible and engaging. Xerte promotes active learning as it has so many interactive templates including category sorts, drag and drop or gap fill exercises, audio transcripts or image slideshows. Xerte learning resources can be delivered through a Moodle Virtual Learning Environment or they can be run from a USB stick, CD Rom, PC or stored up on a website. To find out more about the Xerte Online Toolkit watch the short CPD video at:

<http://www.instantpresenter.com/tlpportsmouth/E955DE86854F>

Supporting Online Learners

The Moodle Virtual Learning Environment provides you with the opportunity to have a support area for your face to face courses, deliver blended learning or to reach new learners through online learning. This session explores the types of support you need to consider for your online learners. It also provides a number of ideas of ways in which you can easily embed support into your Moodle course area which will in the long term save you a lot of time. To find out more watch the short CPD video at:

<http://www.instantpresenter.com/tlpportsmouth/E955DE86834D>

Reasons for using Xerte

Xerte Online Toolkit was chosen as the preferred content creation tool in order to create these learning resources. There are a number of reasons for its use, primarily because of the inbuilt accessibility features which provide learners with the ability to change the font or font size, to increase the size of the window or to have the text read out to them using a screen reader. Xerte provides a whole range of easy to use page templates that enabled us to embed videos, create interactive activities and direct learners to supplementary materials on the Internet. Resources can be produced in collaboration using the online toolkits which is excellent when developing resources as it means that they can be input from more than one teacher. The finished resources can remain on the online toolkit and be linked to from our Moodle virtual learning environment which means that any changes made to the resource are immediately altered within the course itself without the need to re-upload them. Producing the resources in Xerte means that they can easily be updated to keep them current. For example it is easy to update the text such as the price of an item or the rate of VAT or to change pictures when a product begins to look dated.