

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

Provider name & contact details	Stockton Riverside College, Harvard Avenue Stockton on Tees etc		
LIT Project title	Engaging learners in technology using QR Codes		
<b>The project</b>			
What problem or issue you were trying to resolve or improve with this project	<p>The reduction to our “Entitlement Curriculum” meant there was less tutorial support time and enrichment activities available to young people.</p> <p>We were also faced with a widening range of needs to meet through our tutorial system, and wanted to ensure that we were able to differentiate our wellbeing curriculum based on the stage of the young person themselves.</p> <p>We set out to try and ensure tutorial content could be delivered anywhere and would be available at any time the student needed it, making it therefore far more useful and valid to the learner.</p> <p>We reasoned that most learners have easy access to the appropriate technologies and that it would be an easily accessible solution.</p>		
Why did you go for a technology-based solution	<p>As we were aiming to bring a consistent approach to creating our tutorial content and to widen the reach of our tutorial communications using technology, we hoped that the use of mobile technologies, specifically QR codes would do this.</p> <p>We set out to introduce Quick Response codes as an innovative method to produce engaging, interactive tutorial learning resources and thereby investigating the wider organisational issue of improving the use of technology in curriculum delivery.</p>		
What did the project cost: LSIS funding + your organisation’s contribution		Staffing	£5,892.40
		Mentor	£2,400 (£300 per day)
		Travel & subsistence	£700 (to attend LSIS Technology conference & LSIS Technology for Success workshops)
		Classroom resources	£402

		(publicity/engagement)	
		Overall Total	£9,394
		Stockton Riverside College contribution	£3,394
Describe what you did and what happened	<p>We had set off to repurpose and redesign some of our tutorial materials to make them easily accessible using QR codes but in fact the project took on a life of its own.</p> <p>Following an initial meeting with the LSIS critical friend, we interviewed and then appointed an LSIS Mentor. We then worked with our mentor to review how we delivered various services aiming to find a slant on them that would allow us to use this technological approach.</p> <p>As a result of this we introduced new ways of interacting with student services, using mobile phones, QR codes, and eventually augmented reality and included both tutorial and more general services in the project.</p> <p>One development was the creation of a blog. This would replace our paper-based student newsletter. Being online, it was easily accessed via QR codes and this ultimately resulted in a far wider engagement with our learners. The blog was embedded with a variety of applets, which showcased – often with extensive use of multimedia – a wide range of tutorial subjects.</p> <p>For example, one week we showed a video about equality, another week might have featured a word search or an online questionnaire about that particular week's tutorial content.</p> <p>Wherever possible we backed all of this up with something physical. For example, we created a badge that pledges 'Stop Bullying' and included a QR code to our anti-bullying content on the web published resource.</p> <p>Please see the accompanying document for a fuller explanation of the technologies and techniques we employed to make our QR code service exciting and engaging. [<i>SLS_Engaging_learners-creating-the-content.docx</i>]</p> <p>We found that we were able to utilise all of these exciting ideas, once our content could be captured in a link or QR code. As a final example: our college prospectus is now available in key ring</p>		

	format or even on a heart lolly!
<b>The benefits and impact</b>	
What benefits/ impact has the project had on:::	<p>a. the work/ effectiveness of your organisation</p> <p>Marketing, IT services and tutorial teams have all been involved in the project and this has allowed us the flexibility to experiment with a wide range of tools.</p> <p>Being involved in this project has allowed us to find some new approaches to engaging with our students – both prospective and current – and to deliver important messages to them using some exciting media; not only teaching and learning materials but how we engage students with College services, from counselling to the College blog.</p> <p>It has also raised the profile of tutorial and tutorial content, and given us a platform for further developments.</p> <p>Working with our mentor also allowed us to expand on our original ideas and take them much further. This is the main reason that our project will have such an extensive legacy.</p> <p>The LSIS Mentor was an inspiration to all of us involved, and we owe him a great deal of thanks!</p>
	<p>b. the cost/ efficiency of activities</p> <p>By being involved in the project we have been able to explore a range of tools, some of which we have since disregarded. The project has given us the capacity to do that without any negative effects.</p> <p>We have also been able to find efficient ways to create the weekly student newsletter, and hopefully greatly increase its profile over the next months. Moving to the new tools has also saved space on email servers – we send a series of links now rather than attaching the full newsletter or tutorial resource to our tutors.</p> <p>We did unexpectedly need to use more engaging physical resources (e.g badges and other things) to improve the awareness of the IT based methods.</p>
	c. any other aspect of your work

	<p>As noted in A, the work with our mentor really widened our horizons.</p> <p>He quickly encouraged us to extend the reach of the project and this enabled us to develop the project further to review how any services are delivered to learners, considering how we could use technology to improve this at every step of the way.</p>
What contribution to the success / smooth running of the project was made by:	<p>LSIS funding                      a little / some/ <b>a lot</b> / essential</p> <p>Your mentor                      a little / some/ a lot / <b>essential</b></p> <p>LSIS Associate                      a little / some/ <b>a lot</b> / essential</p>
Do you have any comments on the funding, mentor or LSIS Associate.	All worked perfectly to support and develop our work further than it was initially envisaged. We are very appreciative of being involved in the project.
What lessons did you learn / what tips would you give to other providers	<p>We learned to make the most of every opportunity to include the approaches we were trying to include, and to keep trying.</p> <p>We found that using tactile physical prompts (a rose for valentines day with a QR code attached linking to relationship resources for example) captured the imagination of teachers and students alike, and brought the technology to life for them.</p>
<b>Telling others</b>	
What have you done to share /disseminate this project with others in the sector	<p>We released a press release on returning from the LiT workshop, and this was run in our local press.</p> <p>We also ran a staff development session the same week, using a range of resources.</p> <p>We are looking for opportunities to promote the approaches on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>By actually using this technology in our interactions with learners and potential learners, the reach of the project will be extensive.</p>
Provide a quote on your experience of the LSIS LIT	<p>It was an adventure into technology!</p> <p>Due to our involvement in the project we have widened our views</p>

project.	<p>and raised our expectations and aim to to use technology in its broadest sense in every stage of our dealings with learners, and as we examine any process, we now consider how technology could help us to effectively achieve our goal for the student.</p> <p>We rarely use the technology on its own, and engagement is always our starting point for any new tool or resource – what would make a student want to interact with us in this way is our number 1 question every time!</p>
Are you happy for us to use this and your contact details for marketing and publications?	Yes
Contact details for further information	<p>Lorna Mclean <a href="mailto:lorna.mclean@stockton.ac.uk">lorna.mclean@stockton.ac.uk</a></p> <p>Paula Kilburn <a href="mailto:paula.kilburn@stockton.ac.uk">paula.kilburn@stockton.ac.uk</a></p> <p>Mick Mullane; Project mentor <a href="mailto:mick.mullane@btinternet.com">mick.mullane@btinternet.com</a></p>

**Please email all case studies to [eleadership@isis.org.uk](mailto:eleadership@isis.org.uk) by 15<sup>th</sup> March 2013**