SRC Bede Sixth Form: Variety in e-Learning Resources

Summary

Dr Richard Spencer is Biology Subject Leader at SRC Bede Sixth Form and created a wiki with over a dozen different e-learning resources to accommodate differences in learning styles.

The wiki has made the top 50 in the EU e-Learning Awards (out of over 700 entries) in 2009.

The wiki Dr Spencer created and named ‘Meiosistheprocess’

About…

Stockton Riverside College (SRC) is a general further education provider. SRC merged with Bede College in May 2008. SRC Bede Sixth Form is based in Billingham, County Durham. Bede College provides A-Level and vocational courses and has approx 420 learners.

The challenge
To meet the need of a diverse learner population, Richard’s goal was to develop e-learning resources which would be better placed to engage his learners and enhance their learning.

The activity

As part of the LSIS STEM Programme/ Subject Learning Coaches, Richard explored and evaluated his learners’ attitudes to e-learning and in response to their needs he created a wider variety of e-learning resources and improved their access.

As a result of this project, he created a wiki called ‘Meiosistheprocess’ (http://meiosistheprocess.wikispaces.com/) which contains 14 different e-learning resources, all explaining Meiosis in a different way. It includes: videos, a dance, a song, a practical exercise, notes, links to animations on YouTube, e-Games, simulation, a jigsaw, an e-Crossword and many more.

Richard chose to use a wiki because it is well structured and easy to use, therefore making the resources more accessible. The wiki is not intended as a collaborative website; it is purely used as a way of presenting the e-learning resources in an organised manner to the learners.

Most software Richard used to create the resources is freely available, more information can be found under ‘useful links’.

The outcomes

The variety in e-learning resources makes sure there is something for everyone. The resources are either used by the learners in lesson time or demonstrated to remind learners of their existence and accessibility.

The majority of the learners are happy with the e-learning resources and use them to support their learning. They aid understanding and recall and help learners to visualise information. They also provide interest and enjoyment.

A learner commented: ‘They make lessons more interactive and interesting, and visuals can make things easier to understand’.

The impact

Dr Richard Spencer is encouraged by the evidence that learners value e-learning and is looking to create further resources, for example with ‘Glogster’. Glogster is a web based application that can be used to create an online, interactive poster with hyperlinks, images, videos, audio and text.

Since creating the e-learning resources, colleagues have also become enthused to create their own e-learning resources.

Useful links

www.jiscrsc.ac.uk/case-studies
Every e-learning resource has teacher notes attached, explaining how to create it. Software used includes:

https://egames.clsllc.com

www.ispringsolutions.com/products/ispringfree.htm

http://www.eclipsecrossword.com/

http://www.contentgenerator.net/


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