Digital student exemplars
Enhancing the digital experience of students

This case study is relevant to the digital student challenge:

Deliver a robust, flexible, digital environment

Unified communication system enhances opportunities to develop employability skills

East Berkshire College rolled out Microsoft Lync 2013 Unified Communication™ system during the 2014/15 academic year. As well as providing substantial cost savings, the unified communication system offers many potential advantages for teaching, learning and improving the employability of students including:

» An improved student experience through a single tool for instant messaging (IM) called Presence which provides information on the current availability of your contacts, audio and video conferencing at no additional cost

» Enhanced opportunities for remote teaching, learning and training

» The ability to record video conferences and video training and upload and link these to Moodle

» Students can join courses remotely (e.g. from home) without incurring call charges

» Chat rooms allow teachers to monitor and contribute to student discussions. These are available throughout the term and facilitate knowledge sharing

» Improved collaboration between teachers, learners and employers, and between peers; whether on or off campus

» Bringing in remote external subject matter experts to the classroom via audio and video conferencing

» Enhanced opportunities for online learning anywhere in the world at no additional cost

» Students develop their employability and life skills through use of industry-standard software; developing collaboration skills that are commonly used in industry today

How does this meet the challenge?

» The adoption of software that supports modern approaches to communication is making a valuable contribution to what students ‘need to succeed’ in terms of access to industry-standard software.

» The use of software provides opportunities to embed employability skills into the curriculum
Enhanced communication facilitates improvements in collaboration between peers and teaching staff.

This approach means that all curriculum areas benefit equally from digital resourcing, providing parity of experience for students regardless of their choice of study programme.

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