Case Studies

Blended Learning CONSORTIUM

BLC – THE CASE FOR STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Introduction

As well as creating and sharing high quality content the BLC makes use of the expertise across its member colleges and its partnerships with commercial providers such as Microsoft and agencies including the ETF to deliver a wide range of free training opportunities which are available to all staff in member colleges.

Webinars

The BLC regularly puts on a one hour to one day webinars showcasing best practice in member colleges or new digital innovations that would be of interest to members. Examples of these have included best use of Microsoft Teams and Google Suite, developing a digital strategy, responding to the new normal and improving accessibility. Members can attend live and ask questions or view recordings after the event.

Regional/National meetings

In both the autumn and spring terms the BLC organises 6 Regional/National meetings. (Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, England South, Midlands, and North) These one day meetings are free and open to all member colleges. The meetings include presentations on best and innovative digital practice, discussions on digital learning and updates on developments in the BLC. These meetings provide a great opportunity learn from best practice in other colleges and network to share ideas and innovations.

BLC Conference

The BLC annual conference takes place towards the end of the summer term each year and has grown to become the largest digital focussed event in the UK with over 400 participants. Places at the conference are free to BLC members. The conference includes keynote presentations from nationally and internationally leading practitioners in digital learning followed by three rounds of a wide range of workshops for delegates to choose from.

Building capacity and skills through development work

Colleges in the BLC have the opportunity if they wish to get involved in and paid for writing and developing content and producing video resources. Where necessary members of the BLC development team provide free training and support to subject experts to write content and digital experts to develop it.

Resources to encourage and support digital teaching and learning

Having a wide range of online resources and videos available to support teachers encourages them to get involved in digital CPD to develop the skills they need to

Exclusive offers with a range of CPD providers

Sometimes colleges can benefit from bringing in external trainers to support their CPD. BLC members can make savings on this with enhanced offers from companies such as Transform Education and Tablet Academy.

Staff Development

Hull College

Staff development opportunities provided by the BLC have been useful to myself and my colleagues.

One example of this is one of our digital developers attending a free one-day training event in the authoring tool Articulate Storyline. This has helped us in building the capacity to develop our own bespoke e-learning content as well as enabling us to customise the BLC content.

Khaled Al-Ankar
Head of Elearning & Libraries

CPD

Milton Keynes College

The BLC offers regular CPD opportunities that myself and colleagues from Digital Learning, Teaching and Management roles participate in. Their regular webinars have proved particularly useful with a great range of topics. We also get the opportunity to learn new things from different colleges.

Penny Langford
Head of eLearning

Glasgow Clyde

GLASGOW CLYDE COLLEGE

Our teaching staff and eLearning team have taken extensive advantage of the range of CPD opportunities offered by the Blended Learning Consortium. Webinars have covered a range of useful topics and provide examples of good practice in other colleges. This is very useful in helping us understand how "normal" the use of digital is becoming across further education. The regional meetings have been useful opportunities for our digital learning team to both share what we are doing with our peers from other colleges as well as learn from their own digital initiatives. I have also found the annual BLC conference a very useful event to attend for networking, the opportunity to see some leading speakers in the field and attend useful workshops delivered by other BLC colleges.

Niall Hardie
e-Learning Manager