

Independent Learning Projects

Holland Park School of Web Design

The idea of this is to help the school in becoming digital.

Students work with the Notting Dale Technology Centre (or other training establishment) to create low-cost web sites for small local businesses. In exchange for mentorship from NDTC, we would provide them with high levels of exposure and marketing, plus work with them to develop their programmes.

Our students would gain experience in creating web sites for local businesses, while strengthening community relationships.

This school would develop a number of layers as outlined below.

Reflective Journals

PSHE

Targetting PSHE as a subject area through the following means:

Intranet Development

Online Revision

Content Management

There are two aspects to this plan:

- 1.) Changing to a more powerful and modern library management system
- 2.) Working with a database consultant to support us to develop the technology to support a content management system.

A-Z directory

The A-Z directory needs to be online and searchable. The school intranet is the obvious way to do this.

Policies and documents

All school policies and important internal documents could be changed to PDF files and stored within the library system.

Staff handbook

The staff handbook needs to be online and searchable.

This would allow ease of access to information and cut down on printing/collation costs dramatically. I would envisage giving a handbook to each YTL and STL to have in department offices.

ASDAN learning modules

Creating substitute modules to get ASDAN accreditation will provide a much higher 'learning focus' within this programme while also giving students more opportunities to learn skills which they can use in other areas of their learning.

The Learning Kit

Metaphors for learning

Other projects

These projects will be small and ongoing, with a view to establish a model for something that can enhance learning in a larger scale way in the future.

Online Portfolios

Students creating an online portfolios where we develop some common learning elements that will eventually become school wide.

QTVR

An open-ended project that could involve multi-subject and multiple age groups. For example:
-a walk through of the school

Examples to view:

- an international [school in Bedford](#)
- a private [boys school](#)
- [Phoenix High school](#)
- Glasgo School of Art
- [Destination Peru](#)

Library management system

There is a system called AccessIt which I'd like the school to purchase. It costs £4000 and will allow us to integrate our resources across the school.

Part of this change will require a new way of thinking about how resources are shared and stored in the school. This will mean the library system becoming much more than just a library system.

This new system will allow us to:

- search for items that are both digital and non-digital

- have digital files delivered to the person who is searching for them
- create a central system that is searchable (fast!) through the school network or the internet so everything is stored in one place

Following are some of the things it would allow us to do:

Database consultant

There are a number of projects where I need the support of a database expert. These projects involve integrating databases with web sites.

Online bookmarks

Having an online repository for all students and staff to store their bookmarks. This would allow us to personalise the bookmarks that are available to different groups of students (eg. Y11 revision sites, 6th form UCAS/research sites, etc.)

Seeding Projects

Homework monitoring

Small inhouse projects

Student bulletin

Love Online- Y11 media

History Online- KS3 history project

Holland Park School of Independent Learning: self evaluation, portfolios, research, etc.

low-cost community web sites

This could eventually lead to students working in cross-curricular ways to start a company/trust that manages this.

This would give our students experience in business planning, finance, marketing and so on.

Staff professional development

Independent Learning Guide

This will be a growing area within the intranet which will have the latest research and learning ideas which students and teachers can use. It will provide videos and narrations to explain to students how they can improve their learning.

In time this will link in with student portfolios.

Printed

Digital

Partnerships

The formation of strategic partnerships will be of enormous benefit to the school.

The benefits are more than just financial, they will allow us to provide software and expertise to the students and staff, therefore supporting independent learning.

Hidden benefits of these partnerships include marketing and PR.

The costs of these partnerships are that someone needs to champion them in the school.

University of the First Age

This ties in with Tim Brighouse's plans for the London Challenge.

The UFA promote accelerated learning techniques for schools.

A partnership with an organisation such as this would provide us with the following benefits:

- access to world leading thinking about teaching and learning.
- experience for staff in AL and modern learning practices
- fantastic CPD opportunities
- a new way to start thinking about how to encourage and support learning

The structure involves:

- a payment each year which can be tailored to our needs/budget
- supper learning days which involve our staff learning alongside our students
- access to the fellowship which is a national network of like-minded educators
- resources created by the UFA and their partners (eg. Alistair Smith, etc.)

Inspiration

This partnership is about to start its second year. We now have free software across the whole school. My focus is now to teach staff and students how to use it to support learning.

Benefits of this software include:

- open ended planning/organising tool
- research planning
- revision tool
- thinking and structuring tool which can be used to show how people think

We will be providing Inspiration with case studies of our experience as well as acting as a reference site for them and presenting at conferences. This will give the school positive marketing exposure.

Macromedia

I've just managed to start a partnership with this company where we get 5 licences of Contribute. This software allows people to easily create web sites together, allowing one person to oversee the technical aspects of a web site, while others work on the content and add to the site in this way.

We will be providing Macromedia with case studies of our experience. This will give the school positive marketing exposure.

Learning about learning**Inspiration**