VLE e-portfolio – links

This document offers links to various sites and resources which might be of interest to readers who are looking to add to the content or management of their VLE.

Ofsted does not control the content of the external sites and the content of any or all of the external sites may have changed since the inclusion of the links in this web page in December 2012. Ofsted does not accept responsibility for the contents of any pages referenced by an external link.

The inclusion of a link does not mean that Ofsted is endorsing a particular resource or product or even confirming that a resource will work; some have been included on the recommendation of users visited, some by simple web research – use at your own risk.

Although this document will not be routinely checked we are happy to we are happy to consider other suggestions for inclusion throughout 2013 – please send ideas to VLEpostbox@Ofsted.gov.uk.

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Contents

Resources and tools for use in building and polpulating a VLE

Animoto - http://animoto.com/

Make a short movie using your own material, video, and their backgrounds, music, animation. Subscription required.

BBC Skillswise – www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise

A variety of resources, mainly aimed at literacy and numeracy for adult learners.

BBC Bite Size – http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/

Resources, mainly for younger people, for maths, literacy and science. Animated and full of graphics. May appeal to older learners who are struggling with learning.

BKSB - http://www.bksb.co.uk/home/

Originally diagnostic assessment and initial screening tools, but now also provides resources for improving skills in English, maths and ICT – particularly functional skills

British Safety Council - https://www.britsafe.org/speakupstaysafe/the-missing/

Part of the British Safety Council's Speak Up, Stay Safe campaign to build awareness and understanding of work-related risks with young people (13-25 years).Online games and puzzles to illustrate learning points (suggested by Sussex Coast College).

Children and Young People - http://cyp-media.org/

Tony Coughlan, a regional academic with the Open University in the South West managing courses in childhood and youth, has developed a social media presence that collates free multimedia and e-learning resources for the children and young people's (CYP) sector, with the low-paid and volunteers particularly in mind. It has three complimentary components - a blog (as above) that includes many resources, twitter @CYPmedia, and a Facebook page (fb.me/freeCYPmedia).

Classtools – www.classtools.net

Classtools enables the creation of free educational games, quizzes, activities and diagrams.

Connected learning Gateway (CLG) - www.itworxedu.com

The company says 'CLG is an engaging and multilingual web-based social e-learning environment designed to enhance the full education process for teachers, students, management and parents. CLG improves the teaching process for teachers, make learning fun and insightful students at primary, secondary and FE establishments, and facilitate communication and collaboration between school administrators, teachers, and parents. CLG uses the technological advances to empower students with 21st century skills to succeed and more importantly to be able to think critically, be creative problem-solvers and to communicate and collaborate effectively. CLG is an excellent tool for 1:1 deployment as it has specifically developed mobile applications for use by Teachers, Students and Parents'.

Dropbox - https://www.dropbox.com/home#!/home

One of several file sharing systems – see also Google Docs. Mainly used outside a VLE. Dropbox is a home for photos, docs, videos, and files. Anything you add to Dropbox will automatically show up on all your computers, phones and even the Dropbox website — so you can access your stuff from anywhere. You can also share with others.

Easyvoter - www.moodlenews.com/2010/easyvoter

Developed by Solihull College for Moodle.

Forskills - http://www.forskills.co.uk/

A range of functional skills resources and tests

Glogster – www.glogster.com

Glogster provides educators and students the technology to create **GLOGS - online multimedia posters** - with text, photos, videos, graphics, sounds, drawings, data attachments and more.

GoogleAlerts – www.google.com/alerts

Rather than searching for your own content by hand from time to time, let Google Alerts do it for you. Punch in a few unique phrases from your work, set Google Alerts to inform you when those phrases appear on the Web and relax.

Guroo Functional Skills http://www.guroo.co.uk/

A functional skills (subscription) service including: a 10 minute level checker - for use in the interview process and for screening; initial assessment tools - both on-line and paper based for English, maths and ICT, automatically producing a full diagnostic mapped to the Functional Skills criteria and skill gap analysis; a range of teaching and learning resources based around

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problem solving in real world contexts including many set within vocational areas; tutorial videos based on those hard to learn key concepts in Maths, English and ICT.

Hairdressing - http://hairdressing.ac.uk/

Hairdressing Training provides step-by-step guidance videos, self-evaluation tests, worksheets and guides relating to an expanding collection of hairdressing styles and techniques; the service is also mapped to the NVQ Hairdressing curriculum. The resources are now openly available without the need for an institutional subscription or logon. (suggested by Sussex Coast College)

HelloSlide – www.helloslide.com

Simply type the speech for each slide, instead of recording it, and HelloSlide automatically generates the audio.

Hot Potatoes - http://www.hotpot.uvic.ca/

The Hot Potatoes suite includes six applications, enabling you to create interactive multiple-choice, short-answer, jumbled-sentence, crossword, matching/ordering and gap-fill exercises for the World Wide Web. Hot Potatoes is freeware, and you may use it for any purpose or project you like.

itslearning 'whitepapers'

A series of papers - free to download, distribute and share - focusing on how teachers and schools can improve education through the use of learning platforms. Provided by the company 'itslearning'.

JISC TechDis – www.jisctechdis.ac.uk

A UK advisory service on technologies for inclusion. JISC Tech Dis explores and promotes inclusive practices, resources and advice for learning and teaching in UK higher education, further education & skills, and independent and specialist colleges. Helpful on VLE presentation, but also software and hardware for inclusion.

Lanschool – www.lanschool.com

A classroom management system.

Maths is Fun - http://uk.ixl.com/

A wide range of exercises and puzzles; aimed at school pupils up to year 11 but can easily be used for lower level older students (suggested by Sussex Coast College).

Mathletics - http://www.mathletics.co.uk/

A variety of maths resources – for ages 5-18 – includes animated explanations. Key feature is on line testing that encourages some leaners to participate, seeing their results set against others from across the world.

Mathswatch http://www.mathswatch.co.uk

Used by schools to help prepare for GCSEs/functional skills. You can buy direct from supplier or get a licence or an app.

Mindset – www.mindset2000.com

A commercial system; their 'Profiler' has been developed as a learning delivery and management system for key skills and Skills for Life. It can be linked to the MIS systems most commonly used in FE colleges and WBL providers.

Muvizu - http://www.muvizu.com/

A system for creating animations, perhaps to illustrate a talk/learning activity. Muvizu:Play can be downloaded and used free of charge. The videos it produces are watermarked with the Muvizu logo – that can be removed after a payment.

Nanogon – http://gong.ust.hk/nanogong/

NanoGong is an applet that can be used by someone to record, playback and save their voice, in a web page. When the recording is played back the user can speed up or slow down the sound without changing it. The speeded up or slowed down version of the recorded sound can be saved to the user's hard disk, if he/she wishes (used by Southampton City College).

Optivote – www.optivote.co.uk

Optivote is a seamless integration of interactive voting devices (also called 'rapid response devices or 'clickers') and the Moodle LMS quiz module.

Openlearn – www.open.edu/openlearn/about-openlearn/welcome-openlearn-free-learning-the-open-university

The home of free learning from The Open University – a range of courses from languages to science. 'OpenLearn aims to break the barriers to education by reaching millions of learners around the world, providing free educational resources and inviting all to sample courses that our registered students take – for free!'

PhotoPin – www.photopin.com

PhotoPin helps bloggers find photos for their blog and makes adding them to their post fast and easy.

Posterous – www.posterous.com

A blogging platform.

Prezi – http://prezi.com/

An alternative to PowerPoint as a presentation medium. If you register (free – if you do not want the enhanced services) then 'explore' and 'search' say functional skills or maths there are many 'public' presentations you can use, though it takes a little bit of effort to find specific topics.

Qwizdom – www.qwizdom.co.uk

Qwizdom is a provider of Classroom and Audience Response Systems. These are sometimes referred to as Interactive Voting Systems or Clickers.

Quizlet - http://quizlet.com/

A variety of quizzes, games, puzzles to aid learning. Make your own or search the '20 million' sets in Language, mathematics geography etc. (suggested by Sussex Coast College)

Qwiki – www.qwiki.com

Qwiki is an interactive wiki about a variety of topics. Qwiki returns text, audio, visual, and video media about the topic users search on. The Qwiki API allows developers to integrate Qwiki's functionality into other applications.

Refseek - http://www.refseek.com/directory/educational_videos.html

A guide to 25 online resources for finding free educational videos. With the exception of BrainPOP and Cosmeo all listed sites offer their video libraries for free and without registration (suggested by Sussex Coast College).

Snipreel - http://snipreel.com/yt/

A system for cutting you tube videos down in length to just the elements you wish to use (suggested by Sussex Coast College).

TED-Ed – www.ed.ted.com

Use engaging videos to create customized lessons. You can use, tweak, or completely redo any lesson featured on TED-Ed, or create lessons from scratch based on any video from YouTube.

TES Connect: Maths - http://www.tes.co.uk/maths-secondary-teaching-resources/

Free maths resources: maths lesson plans, maths worksheets, maths revision, maths teaching ideas and much more. Includes materials for post-16 (suggested by Sussex Coast College).

ThingLink – www.thinglink.com

ThingLink's technology makes it possible to embed audio, video and rich media links directly in images and share them across the web.

Udacity – www.udacity.com

Online free courses run by an American University – mainly short IT linked and higher level. One of several new sites offering free courses, see for instance Harvard and MIT courses at https://www.edx.org/courses. While these courses have a good pedigree they may not carry much weight as formal qualifications in the UK.

Weebly – www.education.weebly.com

Weebly is an online, free widget-based website creator. It uses a widget-style format, allowing users to create pages with only a few clicks by dragging and dropping different page elements (for example, images, text, or interactive content) onto a page and filling in the content.

Xtranormal - http://www.xtranormal.com/

Create short animations with your voice – or their sound – their backgrounds. Lodge them on the net or download. Small subscription required for some aspects

Anti-plagiarism tools

AntiPlagiarism - http://ikc2.tup.km.ua

Software designed to effectively detect and thereby prevent plagiarism.

Copyscape – www.copyscape.com

Copyscape enables you to search for plagiarism of an entire page. It looks for content theft that traditional Google searches and Google Alerts may miss including sites that take only a part of your work.

Duplichecker – www.duplichecker.com

Free online plagiarism detection software designed to check content

Grammarly – www.grammarly.com

Grammarly is a free automated proofreader and plagiarism checker.

Pictureshark – www.pictureshark.com

A hard to remove translucent watermark is an effective method of preventing image theft. Pictureshark is a free batch image watermarking tool that can process hundreds of images with a variety of effects.

Small SEO Tools – www.smallseotools.com/plagiarism-checker

Free online plagiarism detection software designed to check content.

The Plagiarism Checker – www.plagiarismchecker.com

This free plagiarism detector will find plagiarized text in homework and other essays/reports.

Turnitoutsafely – www.turnitoutsafely.com

A commercial product which checks submitted papers against over 20+ billion web pages, 220+ million student papers and leading library databases and publications.

Viper – www.scanmyessay.com

A free anti plagiarism scanner

Information and resources on staying safe

South West Grid for Learning Trust – www.swglt.org.uk/staying-safe

A wide range of resources and information aimed at schools, parents and young people.

CEOP – www.ceop.gov.uk

The Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre is dedicated to eradicating the sexual abuse of children.

BullyingUK – www.bullying.co.uk

A wide range of information and support services aimed at young people, schools, parents and the workplace.

ThinkUKnow – www.thinkuknow.co.uk

Information and a range of resources aimed at the 5–7, 8–10 and 11–16 age groups.

CBBC Stay Safe – www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/topics/stay-safe

Information and resources for young people.

KidSMART – www.kidsmart.org.uk

Information and resources for young people.

JISC legal information e-safety – www.jisclegal.ac.uk/Themes/eSafety

Information to help institutions meet their legal, and statutory duties, to safeguard the welfare of all learners when making use of ICT. There are a variety of legal issues considered within the e-safety context, including; cyber-bullying, harassment, defamation, hosting liability and data protection.

UK Safer Internet Centre – www.saferinternet.org.uk

Here you can find out the latest advice on how to use the internet and new technologies safely and responsibly. Also find a range of practical resources, news and events focusing on the safe and responsible use of the internet and new technologies.

PhoneBrain – www.phonebrain.org.uk

PhoneBrain is brought to you by PhonepayPlus, the UK regulator for phone-paid services, and was set up to educate young people about these services and the costs involved, as well as to raise awareness of the opportunities associated with them.

Netsmartz – www.netsmartz.org

A wide range of resources and information aimed at schools, parents and young people.

Get safe online – www.getsafeonline.org

Advice on remaining safe online.

Digizen – www.digizen.org

The Digizen website provides information for educators, parents, carers, and young people. It is used to strengthen their awareness and understanding of what digital citizenship is and encourages users of technology to be and become responsible **digi**tal citi**zens**. It shares specific advice and resources on issues such as social networking and cyber-bullying and how these relate to and affect their own and other people's online experiences and behaviours.

Childnet – www.childnet

The site of Childnet International, a non-profit organisation working with others to 'help make the internet a great and safe place for children'.

Events and professional bodies

BETT or The BETT show (formerly known as the British Educational Training and Technology Show) – www.bettshow.com

An annual trade show in the United Kingdom that showcases the use of information technology in education.

JISC – www.jisc.ac.uk

The UK's expert on information and digital technologies for education and research.

NIACE – www.niace.org.uk/campaigns-events/events/conferences-seminars-training-courses

Promoting Adult Learning – runs a variety of relevant seminars including an annual technology seminar.

Ofsted publications

ICT in schools 2008-11, (110134), Ofsted, 2012; www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/110134

Since the Education Reform Act of 1988, information and communication technology has been compulsory for all pupils from 5 to 16 in maintained schools. This report draws on evidence from the inspection of information and communication technology in primary, secondary and special schools between 2008 and 2011. The use of ICT is considered as both a specialist subject and across the wider school curriculum.

Safeguarding in schools: best practice (100240), Ofsted, 2011; www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/100240

This report illustrates and evaluates the features of best practice in safeguarding, based on inspection evidence from the 19% of all maintained primary, secondary and special schools, residential special schools and pupil referral units inspected between September 2009 and July 2010 where safeguarding had been judged outstanding. It also draws on a more detailed analysis and evaluation of safeguarding practice in a small sample of outstanding schools visited by Her Majesty's Inspectors.

Best practice in safeguarding in colleges (100239), Ofsted, 2011; www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/100239

A survey of best practice in safeguarding based on visits to 14 of the 15 colleges that received an outstanding grade for the leadership and management of their safeguarding arrangements in 2009/10.

Virtual learning environments: an evaluation of their development in a sample of educational settings, (070251), Ofsted, 2009; www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/070251

Virtual learning environments (VLEs) use computers to allow remote access to learning materials. As the routine use of computers becomes all pervasive, there is an expectation that VLEs will form a significant part of the next generation's experience of learning. This survey evaluates how VLEs are developing within a selection of providers.

The safe use of new technologies (090231), Ofsted, 2010; www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/090231

This report is based on evidence from a small-scale survey carried out between April and July 2009 in 35 maintained schools in England. It evaluates the extent to which the schools taught pupils to adopt safe and responsible practices in using new technologies, and how they achieved this. It also assesses the extent and quality of the training the schools provided for their staff. It responds to the report of the Byron Review, _Safer children in a digital world_.

Good practice resource - Making the most of information and communication technology: South Devon College (120108), Ofsted, 2012; www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/120108

South Devon College has improved from inadequate some years ago to outstanding in 2008. Since then, success rates have continued to rise and using information and communication technology (ICT) well has been a central element in this success story. There are few, if any, elements of the college's work that are not well supported and often significantly enhanced by the effective use of technology in all its modern guises.

See also the good practice links in a separate document in the portfolio

Virtual learning environment platforms

A wide variety of commercial and open-source VLEs include:

Blackboard – www.blackboard.com

A family of virtual learning software including Elluminate Live - An interactive classroom environment.

Brightwave – www.brightwave.co.uk/Virtual-Classrooms

This is an example of a company with expertise in the development of quality e-learning solutions to achieve a positive measurable impact.

Canvas – www.instructure.com

A full-featured, open-source learning platform by 'Instructure'

Collaborize Classroom – www.collaborizeclassroom.com.

A free online learning platform for teachers and students.

CyberExtension – www.rightreasontech.com/student-success-system/elearning/CyberExtension

Virtual managed learning environment

Desire2Learn – www.desire2learn.com

A suite of learning software

FirstClass – www.firstclass.com

Messaging and communications solution.

Frog – www.frogtrade.com

Frog is a learning platform that allows teachers to build most things that can be found on the Internet (e-learning, social networks, video sites and so on)

Fronter – http://com.fronter.info/product

Norwegian learning environment.

itslearning

itslearning is a global organisation that provides learning technology solutions which support schools and colleges to achieve their educational goals such as student achievement, parental engagement and quality of teaching.

Learnanywhere – www.learnanywhere.co.uk

A primary school specific learning platform.

Litmos – www.litmos.com

This is web-based training software that enables the easy delivery and tracking of online training courses, videos, assessments and surveys.

Mingoville – www.mingoville.com

Introduction to the English language. Ages 8 to 12 (Virtual world and language games)

Moodle – www.moodle.org

A course management system (CMS) also known as a learning management system (LMS) or Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). It is a free web application.

My Learning UK – www.mylearningltd.co.uk

My Learning UK Ltd has developed a Virtual Learning Platform designed for Primary and Secondary schools with practical learning tools and bundled with free interactive content.

Promethean – www.prometheanworld.com/en-gb

Promethean is a global education company that supports teaching and learning through integrated technology and training. It helps teachers meet student needs and provide learners with technologies to transform the education process.

Quest History – www.questhistory.com

Quest History features a specific virtual environment for teachers to use to present vivid historical places and detailed artefacts, such as Tutankhamen's

tomb. Students experience a set of exciting quest adventures. Quest History comes with new lesson plans and teaching suggestions to aid teachers in taking advantage of this innovative media resource.

RCampus – www.rcampus.com

A Learning and ePortfolio management system with both personal and institutional access.

Saba Centra – www.saba.com

Part of a 'human capital development system' with social learning and real time collaboration capabilities.

School VLE – www.schoolvle.co.uk

Providers of managed virtual learning environment for primary schools.

SpicyNodes – www.spicynodes.org

Create and share radial maps (related to concept maps and mind maps).

School Spider – http://www.schoolspider.co.uk/

Another school based VLE developed specifically for primary schools.

Virtual Learning Environments

The vast majority of adult learning VLEs are understandably password protected, restricting their access for general viewing. Interestingly many junior and primary schools have VLEs that are open to all and they tend to show an interesting application of resources and lively presentation style (and those children will eventually reach adult learning with that experience…).

From the many examples it may be worth looking at:

Woodlands Junior School Kent (developed by Mandy Barrow) http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/

See Flat Stanley's travel for an example of cross continent co-operation! Have a look at perhaps the 'number skills' pages for examples of links to other resources.

Bolton Sixth Form College

In this example we invited, after an inspection, Fiona Stansfield, Course Leader of Travel and Tourism at Bolton Sixth Form College to reflect on how she was using virtual learning to aid her students' work.

"Resources that we currently use for both BTEC L2 & L3 and AS/A2 Level include:

Blogging: www.blog.com to encourage reflective learning and development. Two examples of blogging for A level are:

www.thomasjameshill.blog.com
www.shivaninathoocollege.blog.com

This approach to online blogging was successfully used recently in A2 Travel & Tourism with Unit 10 Event Management. Once the blogs were complete the learner could read their blog entries back to help them evaluate their progress, which is part of their assessment objective for this particular unit. Furthermore, the learners reflect upon their strengths and weaknesses and also use this as a sounding board for development and target setting to coincide with class and tutor group SMART targets.

Another use of blogs is with my Extended Project Qualification students who I only see once a week for an hour, such as:

www.mariamb.blog.com and www.samogdenepq.blog.com

This has also allowed me to dip into blogs and see how the learners are progressing with their projects. The blog then forms supporting evidence of the project planning stages and again they can read back to help with their evaluation.

This, along with the use of Twitter and online forums, has proven to be very successful in also engaging students outside of the classroom especially those who find it difficult to be outspoken and verbal in lesson times and to encourage wider reading. In particular this worked very well for a student who suffers with social anxiety, helping with assessment of how this learner worked in a team to organise an event.

Website creation: www.weebly.com for assessment and revision.

Here are some examples of current websites that BTEC L3 National Extended Diploma in Travel first-year learners have created:

www.gettingtoknowthetravelandtourism.weebly.com
This is a BTEC first year students whose first language is Hungarian. This was evidence for her first unit of study. This is an unedited version so please excuse any current errors.

This is another first year student's website for the same unit.
www.alexexplainsitall.weebly.com

Moodle: As well as being a hub of resources for students to access 24/7, it is also used for online submission and the forum tool is utilised to encourage students to carry on subject discussions outside of lesson time.

Online storage: www.skydrive.live.com. This is for electronic 'cloud' file management and has a free 7GB of online storage. When a folder is complete and the learners have retrieved all of their marked and 'passed' work from Moodle they then save them to Microsoft SkyDrive along with supporting evidence such as videos and photographs. The learner then shares this particular folder in a link format to the course leader for easy access.

All of these resources are free, learner and teacher friendly. These techniques have been discovered and developed during my teaching practice and have become solutions to certain problems - such as the desire to increase independent study time and also actively wishing to use a variety of resources to meet the needs of our learners. Also, it is a simple case of keeping up to date with the demands of employers to ensure that along with the necessary qualifications, learners are developing their employability skills too. Finally, in response to teaching & learning survey findings, the college has recognised that learners are asking for more of use of ILT and it is strategic to the college's development".