



EdTech Demonstrator
Schools and Colleges Programme

Digital Dynamite

Learning and Teaching During
COVID-19



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About us.

- The largest component of The TEC Partnership
- Serves 20,000 students
- 15 trading brands
- 70% of students are from widening participation postcodes
- 60% don't have a GCSE in maths, English or both
- 30% of learners have a learning difficulty or disability
- Overall achievement exceptional
- Serves East Coast communities
- Mix of town and rural



Digital Context

- 54,000 jobs in North East Lincolnshire are at risk of automation - roughly 49.4 per cent of all jobs in the area.
- A job is at a high risk of being replaced by automation when the chance of automation within the next two decades is more than 70 per cent.
- 5,000 jobs in North East Lincolnshire fall into this category.
- Jobs currently performed by young adults are most at risk of automation, because entry-level jobs are easier to computerize.
- This poses a problem which pre-dates Covid-19



General Approach to Digital TLA

- How do we educate our students to take their place in the 21st century economy?
- You can't meet the future by doing what you did in the past
- Current education system was designed, conceived and constructed for a very different industrial and economic age – have we moved on?
- Most great learning happens collaboratively in groups, via networking and sharing.
- Teaching is teaching – digital technology is just another enabler, but it is a vital one in preparing for employment and life in the 21st Century
- All programme approvals are checked for automation risks



First Takeaway – Change starts with you.

- Teaching and Learning is our job – digital or otherwise, Covid-19 or otherwise.
- It's a different world for our students
- It's their reality, you need to make it yours
- Make it work for them, don't make it what's comfortable for you
- Just because you don't get it, don't like it or fear it doesn't mean it's wrong.
- Be credible in your digital leadership – are your own digital skills, knowledge and behaviours excellent?
- Are you a role model for your team or are you the old grump in the corner?



Second Takeaway – Its never about the technology, its always about the people.

- Culture pre Covid and currently - Bold, seeking new possibilities and being leading edge, evangelical in the best sense
- Adapting to the ‘world in their pocket’
- Technology moves faster than the regulatory or educational frameworks do, moves far faster than CPD
- Technology is not optional – for many of our students, technology often is the job
- We prioritise the funding and the time, we remove barriers, not place them
- Supported from the top – every step of the way



Third Takeaway – Empower, Train and Support Your Team

- All staff have remote devices and cloud-based access to core systems.
- Full equipment testing and technical support facility with extended hours and fast responses
- Mass refresher training on core Office 365 functionality, Skype in the classroom, Teams etc.
- A comprehensive online 'Teaching & Learning Remotely' guide, with instructional videos on how to create and organise lessons, communications with students, facilitating online discussions, class announcements, creation or sourcing of online resources, integrating third-party apps, virtual teaching, online assessment and recording attendance.



Fourth Takeaway – Communication, Communication, Communication

- Yammer provides GIFHE with a centralised social and supportive communication channel. Yammer is a well-embedded aspect of the Office 365 suite at GIFHE and has over 1200 members who regularly contribute and comment.
- It provides vibrant information dissemination, praise and a good practice sharing environment for all staff. The 'Teaching and Learning Remote Support' channel is where staff share ideas, speak with experts, troubleshoot and celebrate success.
- Captain's Log, weekly, without fail.



Fifth Takeaway – Morale is King

- Our teaching and support staff to remain part of a committed, innovative and problem-solving professional community even while working remotely.
- Not everything at work is about work.
- A virtual memorial service for a dearly missed member of staff who sadly passed away during the lockdown
- Virtual leaving parties for staff moving on
- A dedicated staff wellbeing channel in Teams which hints and tips on how to manage stress, relax and socialize online
- Virtual quiz nights and Friday drinks nights



Morale is King

- 'Isolation TV', a dedicated TV channel on Planet eStream administered by our learning centre team containing a range of children's films to educate and entertain the children of our staff; this was updated daily with new content.
- Copying, creating and uploading viral videos to entertain
- A fully online staff development day on May the 4th called the 'Jedi Training Academy', involving hundreds of staff interacting and learning online while competing for the best Star Wars Costume.
- Friday night 'Cookalong Live' with one of our chefs via Teams.
- A series of supportive and motivational videos for each day of the week to keep staff motivated, improve their technical expertise and share ideas and thoughts such as Monday Motivation, Tuesday Teacher, Wednesday Wisdom, Thursday TeamsTastic and Friday Free for All.

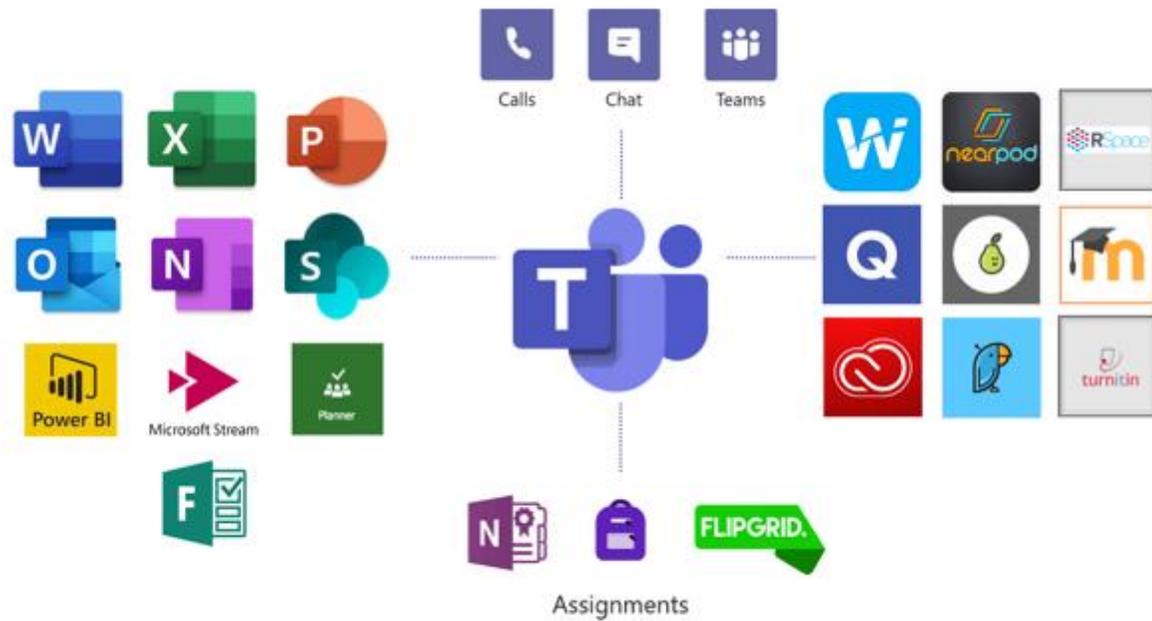




Takeaway Six – Don't Assume – Ask. Then ask again.

- Not all students are familiar with digital technology
- Digital poverty is real and endemic
- Nor everyone has broadband, can afford data or has a device
- Not all students enjoy digital learning or thrive on it
- Some won't tell you that they don't have access or understand, even after you have asked them repeatedly.
- We delivered over 400 devices and Data Dongles
- Regular learner voice feedback
- They need us to be their anchor for pastoral support, wellbeing and mental health, particularly during high stress like Covid-19.

Takeaway Seven – Provide the Tools



- Canvas LMS
- Office 365 and allied Apps
- Digital 'level-up' course for students.
- Devices, data, on call support

Takeaway Eight – Inclusion Matters

- 30% of our students have a learning difficulty or disability
- Learning Tools,
- Eye control
- Focus Assist
- Researcher
- Office Lens
- Dictate / Read aloud
- Presentation translator
- Colour filters
- Accessibility checker
- Immersive reader



Learning Tools



Word
Prediction



Dictate



Editor



Office Lens



Ease of Access



We're here for you.

Takeaway Nine – Keep Caring and Checking

- Produced a 'Students Guide to Remote Learning'
- Produced instructional videos - logging in, links to support and helplines, what to expect from an online lesson, submitting work,, communication with staff and attendance expectations
- An uplifting and motivational video to reassure learners accompanied this guide.
- We also covered the critical aspects of safeguarding, reinforced cybersecurity awareness and focused heavily on student wellbeing and mental health support. Each student is contacted at least weekly, either by their teacher or by the student support team. We are conducting socially distanced home visits for students who have not engaged, and who we perceived as 'at-risk learners'.

Takeaway Ten – Overkill is underrated



- Transformed the curriculum with topicality, sequenced to match circumstances, quality assured.
- Extensive guest speakers on Canvas conferencing, Teams and Zoom such as special effects artists, national charity leaders, international music producers, environmental activists and politicians
- Viral videos as morale boosters created by staff to entertain and motivate students
- Online student of the month in all curriculum areas
- Creation of virtual gallery and exhibition spaces for arts and photography students
- Masterclasses with nationally based choreographers, dancers and hairdressers

Overkill is Underrated

- Animal care masterclasses from zoos worldwide and pet shops locally exploring care, handling and health concerns of domestic and exotic species
- Lambing live from a local farm
- A community choir to support adult learners and the local community
- Remote fitness sessions for all students
- Nail art and self-care tutorials
- Mental health support online.



Thank you for
your time.

