Mobile learning in action

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What is mobile learning?

"The exploitation of ubiquitous handheld technologies, together with wireless and mobile phone networks, to facilitate, support, enhance and extend the reach of teaching and learning"

Where, What and How?

- Classrooms, Science Labs and Workshops, Workplaces, at home, community locations and in transit
- Mobile phones, smartphones, PDAs, MP3/ MP4, handheld gaming devices, Ultramobile PCs, notebooks, handheld GPS or voting devices and specialist portable technologies
- Wireless networks, mobile phone networks, linking to VLE's and MIS

What is Molenet?

- £12m LSC funded programme
  - encourage, support and promote mobile learning in Further Education sector,
- 155 Colleges, 29 Schools, 20,000 learners, 4000 staff
- Funding and Partnership Model
- Support and evaluation programme
  - Technical and pedagogic advice and support
  - Materials development
  - Continuing professional development
  - Mentoring
  - Facilitation of peer-to-peer support
  - Networking and resource sharing
  - Research and evaluation.

Diverse Audiences

- 14–16 year olds preparing for specialised diplomas;
- 16–19 year old and 19+ workbased learners and apprentices;
- 14–19 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEETs);
- Skills for life and job readiness learners;
- Adult returners; adult learners;
- Ex-offenders and those at risk of offending or exclusion;
- English as a second or other language (ESOL) learners and their families;
- Learners with disabilities or learning difficulties and
- non-traditional learners.

Subject Areas (A-W!)

Agriculture, Animal Care, Applied Science, Art and Design, Business, Catering and Hospitality, Children and Education, Construction, Countryside Management, Creative Arts and Media, Customer Services, Dental Nursing, Drama and Theatre Studies, Electronics, Engineering, English, Environment, ESOL, Functional Skills, Geography, Government and Politics, Hair and Beauty, Health and Social Care, History, Horticulture, ICT, Key Skills, Land-based, Languages, Literacy and Numeracy, Logistics, Mathematics, Music, Outdoor Pursuits, Performing Arts, Public Services, Science, Sewing Manufacturing, Skills for Life, Society, Sports, Teacher Training, Uniformed Studies, Warehouse and Distribution.

What have we learnt?

- **Retention**
- A comparison of the retention data for nearly 5,000 FE college learners (approximately half of the total 2007/08 MoLeNET learners) with LSC national ***in year*** retention rates for 2006/07 suggests an improvement in retention of 8%.
- **Achievement**
- A comparison of the achievement data for nearly 5,000 FE college learners (approximately half of the total 2007/08 MoLeNET learners) with LSC national ***in year*** achievement rates for 2006/07 suggests an improvement in achievement of 9.7%.

Teaching…

- Encourage and support learning at any time of day
- Make learning more convenient, more accessible and more sensitive to learners' individual needs and circumstances
- Enable teachers to maintain a supportive dialogue (synchronous and/or asynchronous) including infrequent attenders
- Enable teachers to provide differentiated learning activities to suit different learning styles

…and Learning

- Encourage and support both independent (including discrete learning) and collaborative learning
- Support revision and help learners who have missed lessons to catch up
- Enable technological support for learning in the normal learning location
- Help to overcome the digital divide
- Include formative assessment
- Support assessment especially for work-based learners.

Lessons Learnt

- Careful planning and preparation
- Staff training, support and time
- A differentiated approach
- Production of learning materials
- Bespoke v re-purposed materials
- Summative assessment and examining bodies
- Timescale for realising benefits

What about the health service?

- Difficult for staff to attend classroom training because:
- Too much to do e.g. junior doctors, nurses, managers
- Managers' permission
- Multi-site locations e.g. nurses, doctors, admin
- Nights and/or week-end working
- Working remotely e.g. healthcare visitors, district nurses

Challenges and Opportunities

- Constant Change
- Constant training in new equipment, new patient procedures, new hygiene procedures, new regulations, new regulatory targets means that there is an ever increasing need for effective training.
- Those on night shift, travelling around or waiting for the next emergency may have quite a lot of "downtime" that could be better utilised.

What could it do for you?

- Issues
- Solutions
- First Steps

www.LSNeducation.org.uk

www.molenet.org.uk

Making Learning Work
– from classroom to boardroom

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