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Traversing Digital-Creative Perspectives

Preparing design and technology students for interdisciplinary work

Innovation and excellence in teaching and learning 20th March 2018

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Key Points

- Part of the HEFCE Catalyst: A initiative to support the development of "small-scale, experimental innovations in learning and teaching on specific cohorts of learners"
- Enhance work: Readiness of computing, art and design undergraduates by...
 - Using live briefs
 - Cross-disciplinary teamwork
 - Teams to be self-directed and responsible for:
 - Project management
 - Meeting deadlines
 - Managing team and client communications
 - Auditing and being accountable for progress
 - Designing, developing and fully deploying cross-platform web apps





Brief 1 - WW1 Heritage Trail App – 2016-17

- Brief to develop a location-aware multi-platform app to deliver rich multimedia content for interpreting sites of WW1 significance around High Wycombe
- Customer Wycombe District Council with other stakeholders including local schools and history societies
- Successful Outcomes [1] innovative solutions; [2] fully deployed app; [3] overall student satisfaction surrounding live brief process
- Points for Improvement [1] initial cross-subject team building; [2] timetabling; [3] team communications; [4] project management; [5] reduce scope of project mission







Brief 2 - Safe Place Scheme App – 2017-18

Brief – develop an app to deliver guidance to Safe Place providers and a system to log incidents

Customer – Buckinghamshire County Council with stakeholder organizations supporting vulnerable people in the community Successful Outcomes – [1] advanced prototype apps in place; [2] one team to continue development to deployment; [3] indications of successful year 2 changes (team building; timetabling; communications; project management; reduce scope of project mission); [4] shared learning & teaching approaches across departments

Points for Improvement – currently under evaluation but potentially: [1] greater use of peer evaluation; [2] commencing projects with team-building immersive 'hackathon' pushes for initial development; [3] strengthening reflection processes for capturing Learning Gain; [4] computing students to make greater use of creative/design spaces

Safe Place Scheme Launch Across Bucks



What is a safe place scheme?

People sometimes need a safe haven when out in the community.

The 'Safe Place' scheme provides suitable venues, such as local shops and restaurants, where they can go and a telephone call can be made to someone they trust.





Reflections

- 'Real-life' experience
- Converse with client
- Local impact

Other Students said...

"best module ever!"

"great to make something"

"enjoyed working with clients and stakeholders and one of the users of the app"

"gave me confidence in working with clients ... treated me as an equal ..." "not always clear as to what I was expected to do"

"no help from partners!"

"we had a difficult team dynamic"

Client Feedback...

"students asked searching questions and came up with many ideas we hadn't thought of"

"impressed by the range and diversity of solutions ... very difficult to select an obvious winning team"

"I expected more questions"

"Team X don't seem to have progressed as far"

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Thank You

