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Traversing the interdisciplinary divide: enhancing and capturing learning gain in innovative student-led learning approaches

Brief description: Students from Computing (L6) and Creative Design (L5) worked as part of interdisciplinary teams in competition with one another to create a web-based product for the local council. Researchers worked alongside the course team to coordinate activity to enhance cross-disciplinary team work and capture challenges and benefits.

How the project is innovative and experimental: The project is cross discipline/cross level (both of these elements are new to the course teams and students); the assessment involves a live brief and third partner (employers) and engages students in competition.

The main highlight/project achievements of projects: The project has resulted in a live artefact that is 'out in the world'. There is also a clearer understanding of students staff working across disciplines (what works) and will in this way result in sustainable learning for the institution.

Greatest challenge so far:

For students: getting used to the culture of another discipline (e.g. language and habits)

For staff: institutional challenges (e.g. logistical)

Top tip you'd pass on to other projects:

1. Buy in is key
2. Piggyback on existing activities or events rather than layering on extras
3. Use an ethical approach that is transparent/light touch

Three things to try that have worked for others

1.....

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2.....

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3.....

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