

<Creative Academy>

<Virtual Learning Environment>

VERSION HISTORY (KEEP 5 MOST RECENT CHANGES)

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13.10.2017	1.0	Initial draft	George Kirkham

APPROVALS (KEEP 5 MOST RECENT CHANGES)

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Virtual Learning Environment

The Creative Academy Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) includes:

- Private Group – Facebook
- Public and private areas of Vimeo
- Emails
- Student area – www.creativeacademy.org
- Slough & University of London websites

HE institutions are investing in mobile applications (apps) for tablet and smart-phones, enabling students to access their Institution's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) without restrictions on time and place. For students in HE Institutions a smart phone represents a 'key social connector and a learning tool', (BlackBoard.com, 2013) and reduces the issues with wireless technology (Benson & Morgan, 2012). The 'digital natives' (Prensky, 2001) in higher education today are used to technology and increasingly expect mobile forms of communication and social networking, which can aid engagement (Okoro, 2012). Earlier research (Hrastinski & Aghaee, 2012) indicated that students prefer to separate their private and study activities, particularly on social media such as Facebook. Potential technical issues, and the most appropriate pedagogic approaches, are still unclear.

The research is based on a case study of launch of a mobile application of Blackboard VLE in a UK HE Business School. Usage levels are analysed, along with short surveys with Business School students and staff (still ongoing) regarding their use of mobile systems for both learning and social networking, attitudes to usage, along with reasons for using or not using the system,

The ability to take part in mobile collaborative discussions and particularly social media linked to their coursework could increase engagement of the increasingly technologically 'savvy' HE students. It may encourage those not yet fully aware of the business requirements of technology use to gain important skills that will increase their social capital and employability. However it will not happen without substantial work by academics to make appropriate use of the systems. The technological investment is just a small part of what is needed to ensure the engagement objective is met. We recommend that staff receive specific support to develop approaches to the VLE, including social media that will enhance engagement through mobile apps.

We will also discuss the pedagogic implications of developing learning systems that work well on an app but remain challenging and interesting to students. There may be new pedagogical approaches that make full use of the potential of mobile. A challenge for HEI's is to adapt rapidly to new developments in this increasingly fast-changing technological society, we will

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discuss the implications of our findings for the incorporation of other innovations that might emerge in the future.

- Private Group – Facebook

This is used for instant messaging, informing of changes, sharing best practice and contacting staff instantly.

- Public and private arears of Vimeo

Public video for students to download for showreels

Private access (once physical elements have been completed a password is provided for blended learning elements of modules)

- Contemporary Techniques 1
- Classical Techniques
- Commercial Techniques 2
- Contemporary Techniques 2

- Emails

- Contact with The Creative Academy team
- All written work must be submitted to george.kirkham@slough.gov.uk by 09:30 by the deadline, all work must be in PDF format and must include a top copy with personal details. It is advised that a delivery report and read receipt are added.
- Timetables

- Student area – www.creativeacademy.org

- All module study guides
- Specific course materials
- Public documentation

- www.slough.gov.uk & www.uwl.ac.uk

- All University of West London policies

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- All Slough Borough Council policies

Data protection:

<https://www.slough.gov.uk/council/data-protection-and-foi/>

The information you provide will be passed to the Creative Academy (CA). The CA is responsible for funding and planning education, training and sign posting employment opportunities for people aged 16+. The information you provide will be shared with partners in Slough Borough Council, University of West London, Active IQ, City and Guilds, Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing, Council for Dance and Education Training, HESA, HEFCE, Department for Education, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, Active IQ, London College of dance Network, UCAS, Dancebiz, Pilates Precision, British Academy of Stage and Screen Combat, European Commission and Creative Academy Funders for the purpose of administration, careers and other guidance, and statistical and research purposes. At no time will your personal information be passed to organisations for marketing or sales purposes. From time to time beneficiaries are approached to take part in surveys by mail and phone, which are aimed at enabling the CA and its partners to monitor performance, improve quality and plan future provision.

Dancebiz:

Staff use 'Dancebiz' to register attendance (implementation and testing took place in the Autumn term 2017/18) and was rolled out in the academic year 2018/19.

Moodle:

The Creative Academy has an aspiration to move from emailing work to using the Slough Borough Council adult education 'Moodle' for implementation in Academic Year 2018/19