

USING E-PORTFOLIOS TO WIDEN PARTICIPATION AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS FROM MINORITY ETHNIC AND LOWER SOCIOECONOMIC GROUPS TO GAIN ENTRY TO HIGHER EDUCATION.

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Teaching Quality
Enhancement Group

What was the eP for?

- Help students from local schools:
 - Think about University as an option.
 - Help that make decisions about courses etc.
 - Help them produce a high quality personal statement for University application.
- In addition, help students:
 - Compile a wide range of evidence of their skills and experiences.
 - Boost self-confidence.



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The students

- 65 students
- 16-18 years old
- 91% from ethnic minority backgrounds (mainly Pakistan, India and Bangladesh)
- All studying for A-levels (or equivalent)

What they did?

- Research into University and courses
- Recording and reflecting on their:
 - Skills; strengths and weaknesses
 - Experiences; work, voluntary, community
- Action planning
- All the evidence, reflection and planning was recorded in the e-portfolio.

University options

- 75% felt better prepared
- 25% felt they were more likely to go to University (0% said less likely)

“it has helped me decide a lot about what I want for the future and what I need to do to get there ”

Personal Statements

- They record a wide range of evidence to draw upon in their personal statements
- They use their own experiences, many of which will be culturally based.
- Have been able to address weaknesses in experiences & skills.

“it enabled me to record my experiences, something I usually would not do ”

Self-confidence

- Recording skills and experiences gives a better sense of self.

“When you write it down you believe it more ”

“It gives you confidence ”

E-benefits

- Enables independent learning – school perspective (62% used the eP outside of school)
- Can be accessed from any computer - flexible

My thoughts

- Recording their own experiences allows them to build a picture of themselves which represents who they are and is not culturally imposed.
- They value their own experiences and it is about matching them to the qualities that Universities are looking for.