
ENGAGING YOUNG STUDENTS IN THE ePORTFOLIO PROCESS- ABSTRACT

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Abstract: Wolsingham is an 11 – 18 School and Community College set in rural Weardale in Co Durham (UK). The school has a record of successful curriculum development and innovation in many areas including Key Skills, Employability Skills and ePortfolios. The school has developed and successfully trialled, a video-rich, multimedia ePortfolio [E-Me] that it is using with Year 7, 8, 9 and sixth form students. Students are taught how to use multimedia authoring software, are provided with a template, a structured collection of linked pages, and then supported as they collect and integrate digital evidence of their learning, achievements, plans and aspirations. The project began with a small-scale pilot in February 2004 that demonstrated that students could use the software and digital recording equipment. During the last three years all year 12 students have compiled ePortfolios and currently all Year 7, 8, 9 and 12 students have ePortfolios. Within the next twelve months every student in the school will have an ePortfolio.

While early project work had focussed on structure and technical challenges the focus has now moved to the integration of the ePortfolio process into curriculum and student practice. We are addressing the challenges and enjoying the benefits of, supporting large numbers of learners who are working with ePortfolios.

This workshop will:

- look at the strategies that the school has used to engage students and staff in the ePortfolio process,
- disseminate project findings in terms of student perception of multimedia ePortfolios,
- disseminate experience of using a multimedia ePortfolio in review and formal interview situations,
- look at the impact that the ePortfolio process has had on student learning, motivation and self-esteem,
- share the school's plans for future development and integration.

Keywords: ePortfolio, school, self-esteem, motivation, ePortfolio process

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