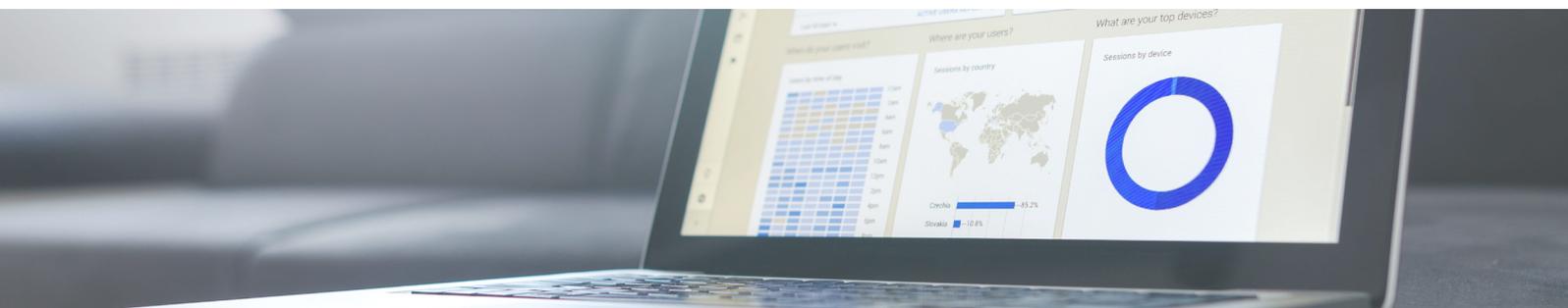


Case Studies



BLC – THE CASE FOR DIGITAL STRATEGY

Introduction

The BLC is a “by the sector for the sector partnership” that co-funds and co-develops high quality online content chosen democratically by its members. Over its first five years of operation since 2015 the consortium has created over 1800 one-hour online resources and over 100 short high-quality videos. In addition to this over 300 hours of content has been shared that member colleges have developed themselves without BLC funding.

With colleges increasingly building future plans around a digital strategy for both teaching and learning as well as operational practices membership of the BLC can help colleges in many ways in achieving the aims of that strategy.

Digital content to underpin digital learning

One of the main reasons the BLC was set up in 2015 was the lack of quality content available for further education. Building a large amount of high-quality content across all the areas that the FE sector delivers is beyond the capacity of individual colleges. However, by working together using the skills and knowledge of teachers and learning technologists across a partnership of colleges along side the BLC democratic co-funding model we have shown this is achievable.

Colleges which have access to this large and growing collection of online resources for teaching and learning are far better placed in their ability to deliver a blended curriculum with a significant component of digital and online learning.

Integration with major learning platforms

A range of learning platforms are used across the FE sector and the BLC is committed to ensuring that its content works well across all of them. BLC content is made available for members to download in both SCORM and HTML5 format. The content is being successfully used on a wide range of platforms including Moodle, Canvas, Itslearning, Brightspace, Blackboard, Google Classroom and Microsoft Teams.

Working with suppliers of these services we have also repository options for MS Moodle, Teams and Google Classroom.

Learning analytics

Learning analytics is predicted to become increasingly important across all education sectors. Benefits of good data can help predict learner success, help learners and teachers track progress, support management decision making and improve learner retention.

Using the BLC content provides a range of useful data at learner, group, departmental and organisational level.

Organisations can track engagement and usage of each resource as well as learner success on the formative assessments which are integrated into all resources.

Accessibility

Digital accessibility is important so all learners can engage with learning. The BLC content is designed with accessibility for all built in. This is achieved through features such as choice of colours and fonts, audio track on learning resources and subtitles on videos. All online learning resources also have an accessible word document version to support dyslexic learners and those using screen reading technologies.

Sharing and learning from best practice across the sector

One of the key benefits of being part of the BLC is being part an active learning and sharing community of colleges. This is done through our monthly webinars, termly regional meetings and annual conference. These are all free to BLC members and allow you and your colleagues the opportunity to learn from best practice in other BLC colleges as well as sharing your own developments.

Digital Strategy

Solihull College & University Centre



The BLC content supports us in implementing the teaching and learning strand of our digital strategy through the availability of so much quality content that our staff use to support delivery of blended learning.

Emma Ball

Head of Learning Technologies, Open Access & Library Services

Milton Keynes College



One area that having access to the BLC resources has been useful to us is in our industry placement for T-level pilots. We had identified that a significant challenge for us was getting our learners “work ready” for their extended work placements.

The BLC employability resources have played a useful part in building a six-week course for all our 16-18 learners to prepare them for entering the workplace.

Penny Langford

Head of eLearning

**Leeds
City
College**

Being a member of the BLC has been useful to us in a number of ways in helping Leeds City College move forward with its digital strategy. The availability of content from the BLC saves our teachers the time they would have taken to make their own digital content and increases their use of online learning. The time saved in not having to develop our own resources has enabled us to invest more time to our quality leads. This helps us drive forward a more digital approach across the college.

We also benefit from keeping up to date with digital developments in other colleges as well as being to share our own good practice with others through the BLC webinars and meetings.

Steve Hope

TEL Advanced Practitioner

**Hull
College**

Membership of the BLC has been invaluable to Hull College in helping us move forward with digital as a college.

The content is robust and of high quality. It is used widely across the college and has helped us move to a 10% online model in 2019-20 and based on the success of this, increasing to 20% in 2020 -21. The networking opportunities offered through regional BLC meetings has helped us share our own ideas and learn from what other colleges are doing. The good practice and ideas arising from this have helped us in moving our strategic planning forwards.

Khaled Al-Ankar

Head of Elearning & Libraries