



JISC RSC Scotland South & West Case Study @ Cardonald College

Using Web 2.0 Technologies to Develop Literacy, Communication and Research Skills

Key Words

- Literacy skills
- Sharing information with others/shared sense of creativity
- Kudos for students
- Communication skills and widening the circle of those known to the students
- Research Skills
- Proofreading skills
- Immediacy of output
- Student focused

Outline of Podcast

This is a two year full-time course for people who have recently left school. The course aims to prepare young people for life after school and assist them in the transition from school to further education college courses or open employment. It does this by building skills that will be used in life and work and that will enable them to approach the workplace and further learning with confidence.

An important element of the course is a series of workshops and activity days. On Friday all students can choose from a variety of optional subjects. These activities/subjects include photography, music and newsletter group amongst others.



John Archibald explains the benefit of using Blogger.

Some students choose to join the newsletter group and within this session, students learn the skills incorporated in developing and creating a newsletter. A component part of this group is to develop literacy, communication/information sharing skills, research skills etc. Another element to this subject area is that it provides the students with a chance to widen the circle, mixing with other students from other areas in and around the college.

Instead of concentrating on creating a paper based newsletter, John Archibald the tutor has been working with the students to create a Blog as an alternative to more traditional methodology. A Blog is a Web 2.0 tool which can be used to create written information that can immediately be viewed as a web page. The online editing feature on Blogs allows text to be added, formatted and web pages to be created very easily without the author having any experience of developing web content. John uses a Web 2.0 tool called Blogger as one of the tools to create an online newsletter. Blogger is a free resource created by Google.



John explains how he uses Blogger.

Interested in the accessibility features of various Web 2.0 tools? [Web2Access is a JISC TechDis resource](#) which aims to provide information and guidance on the use of various Web 2.0 tools and the usability/accessibility aspects of each tool.

Podcast Questions

1. Can you explain a bit about your Newsletter Group and the web based tool you use to engage students in creating their newsletter?
2. For those who are listening to this who are unfamiliar with Blogger, can you explain a bit about what Blogger is and what it does?
3. What skills do you think students develop as a result of using engaging in this subject area?
4. Why use a Web 2.0 tool like Blogger as opposed to a traditional paper based output?
5. Do you think that students are already familiar with these kinds of technologies already before they engage in this class and use this tool?
6. Do you think the students develop additional skills as a result of using Web 2.0 tools as part of their newsletter group?
7. Do you incorporate issues of e-safety and e-responsibility into the elements of the course? (ethics, risks, terms and conditions, acceptable use, copyright etc.)
8. As well as benefits to students, what are the benefits to you as a lecturer in using this too? (record/log of work)
9. What kind of advice would you offer any staff who are out there listening to this podcast at the moment and who are interested in following a similar path using this kind of tool?
10. If you knew then what you know now, would you do anything different when using this kind of resource?

ⁱ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blog>

ⁱⁱ <http://tinyurl.com/ydljbg2>