



JISC RSC Scotland South & West Case Study @South Lanarkshire College

A cross college approach to provide free enabling technologies to all staff and students

Podcast Transcripts - Lecturing staff at South Lanarkshire College

Margaret McKay: Hello my name is Margaret McKay and I am the inclusion advisor for the RSC Scotland South and West and today I am at South Lanarkshire College. I am joined by Elaine Hamilton who teaches in Health and Social Care, Vicky Grant who manages the inclusiveness project and Jean Carat who is the Scottish Wider Access Programme co-ordinator for Access to Humanities. Today we are going to talk about the MyStudyBar Initiative. Can you tell me how you found out about MyStudyBar in the college?

Lecturing Staff: I found out about MyStudyBar through Lorraine, who came to the Inclusiveness Project Groups in the area. In this project a lot of students have multiple barriers to returning to employment and have support needs, lack of qualification or learning difficulties. Lorraine showed the group how to use the tool and it became a great success for the students who previously not know how to use the software.

Lorraine came to our faculty meeting where we share good practice, and she explained that this resource was available on the South Lanarkshire College VLE and that all the students were able to use. She highlighted that that MyStudyBar was not just available for students with disabilities but for all learners.

I learned about MyStudyBar through Learning support, I am also doing a course in dyslexia at the college and the tools were highlighted as solutions for people with dyslexia. MyStudyBar has been identified as a tool for a wide range of needs.

Margaret McKay: Have you been involved in demonstrating specific applications?

Lecturing Staff: I have targeted the gap between students who may have support issues and this is particularly useful in the time gap **before** students decide to go to learning support. Some students do not want to go for additional support or often delay a referral and as an interim measure I use MyStudyBar to help them. For example I would introduce the colour filters or magnifier or the reader just to offer some solutions things to help students

I use MyStudyBar in a guidance situation with students who are going onto university and with students who are preparing them for HE we look at how students approach study skills and learning styles. We identify student-learning styles and in particular this is helpful with those students who are visual learners.

Our students find the mind mapping preparing for their assessments. The talking dictionary is particularly popular and the students can use these enabling technologies to assist them in different environments at university, at home, in the library or anywhere.

Margaret McKay: Do you use the technologies for yourself or in the way you deliver work?

Lecturing Staff: I have used the mind maps to generate prompts and for progress for assessment. Single words often prompt ideas and I can print out and give to class.

MyStudyBar is new to me but I would like to use because it is the perfect study aid.

I have used it in the revision session and exam preparation. I find that students like the mind mapping or more generally bullet points as a tool for revision.

Margaret McKay: Do you find the application easy to use?

Lecturing Staff: Yes, I played about and spent some time becoming familiar with MyStudyBar. Some students are more technical than I am and the instructions and guidance are on the VLE, and if the students want to be more fancy than me they have the capacity to do so. Paul in particular is very technical and he wanted to know all the details so I pointed him to the guidance resources.

Some things are pretty simple for example sticky notes are easy to use and a lot of the students with dyslexia can be disorganised, therefore rather than bits of paper, the MyStudyBar sticky notes application simply pops up on the screen as a reminder when the student opens their computer and uses MyStudyBar.

MyStudyBar is very easy to use and the step-by-step tutorial reduces confusion and really help them and can go back to them. People are at different levels of comfort, a lot of our students in the community have never used computers before and there can be a real fear factor because our students can be a bit older. I guess because the applications are so easy to use the tutorials can add a level of comfort and confidence.

Margaret McKay: If there is anyone listening to this who has not used MyStudyBar before, can you offer any advice having tried out the MyStudyBar tools?

Lecturing Staff: You don't need to know everything about it, take it as an opportunity facilitate learning for your students and you may well find that they take it further than you would have done so yourself. If you introduce it and it is a winner for the students, they will go places with the technology that you never have dreamed of.

Just try it and take advantage of it.

Don't be limited by your own imagination.