



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

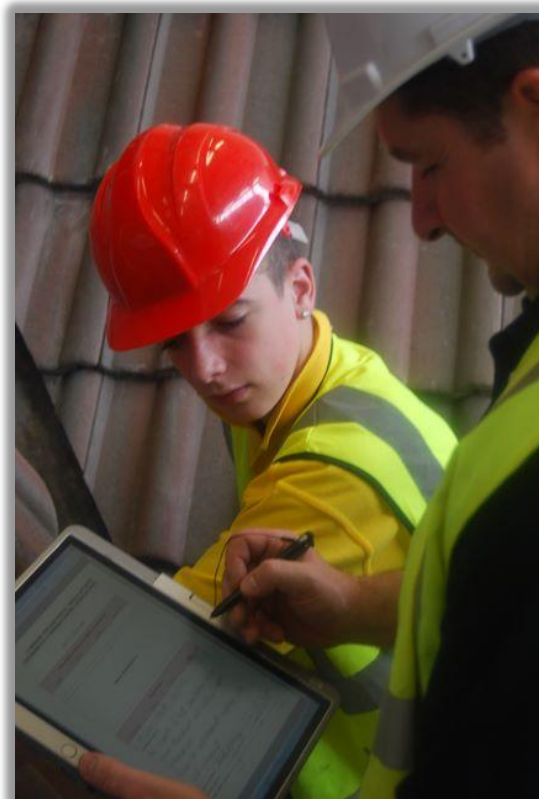
### **The use of tablet PCs for e-assessment**

#### **Summary**

Tablet PCs are used widely across the college. This study focuses primarily on the use of tablet PCs for e-assessment and wider learning and teaching activities across the faculty of construction, with some examples of how they are used in Hairdressing and Business also covered.

#### **About South Lanarkshire College**

The College's 60th anniversary was celebrated with a move into the new £35m College campus in the Technology Park in East Kilbride. This exciting new campus offers the very best student learning resources and a bright modern learning environment. Outreach classes are also delivered in local and rural communities. A wide range of vocational and leisure subjects can be studied full-time and/or part-time, plus open and flexible learning options are also available. South Lanarkshire College's Construction Faculty has a long, successful history in Construction competitions both as competitors and as organisers. In October 2009, the College played host to more than 100 competitors from across the UK when it held the National Skillbuild Competition on College grounds. Skillbuild is Britain's biggest construction competition, which allows apprentices and young, trades people from across the UK battling it out to become Britain's best trade person in categories such as carpentry, joinery, painting and decorating, plastering, roof slating, tiling and wall and floor tiling.



## The challenge

- To change the way assessment was carried out across the institution with a move from a paper-based to electronic system.
- To minimise the administrative tasks associated with the assessment.
- To enhance the learning and teaching experience for learners and to ensure that the assessment for learning is fully embedded.
- To hugely reduce storage requirements for paper-based portfolios of evidence.
- To provide learners with electronic portfolios of evidence.

## The activity

Previously all assessment was paper-based but on moving to a new campus in 2008, the opportunity arose to re-assess practices and procedures in learning, teaching and assessment. A strategic decision was taken to provide staff with a tablet PC that they could use to support learners. The senior management team was committed to the modernisation of the learning experience, through the use of appropriate technologies. Throughout the college most curriculum areas have been provided with tablet PCs. In particular, this study focuses on the work of the construction department where staff use tablet PCs to support learners.

## Construction

All assessment is now recorded on the tablets and templates have been created that learners and lecturers record assessment activity. Tablet PCs are small and robust and very suitable for practical workshop environments with access to the Internet available via the college's wireless network. During assessment learners take photos of their work before and after to record their progress throughout an activity. The lecturers encourage the learners to self-assess their own progress and gauge how well they have understood and performed the task with the support of their lecturer. During the assessment learners and lecturers record comments and at the end of the assessment process, a digital copy is instantly available, which can be downloaded or delivered electronically. All learners have their own personal digital folder on the tablet where all their assessment materials, including

**2. PREPARE FOR AND INSTALL DOUBLE LAP ROOF COVERINGS TO A VARIABLE GAUGE (PLAIN TILES)**

Task 2 — Continued

Feedback to candidates

G. Shearer working with T. Wilson

A slight problem to start with, setting out and squaring the roof was problematic but this was overcome.

Good teamwork from this pairing. And the completed task was finished to a V.G. standard.

Thomas was absent for one session and Graham worked well and confidently on his own.

Graham is making V.G. progress

Candidate's signature: Graham Shearer Date: 17.12.09  
Assessor's signature: J. King Date: 17.12.09  
Internal verifier's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

2.7

images are stored. The use of tablets is not confined to e-assessment but is used in the classroom as well. Lecturers use the images (displayed via data projectors), taken during practical work as discussion points in the classroom, where learners can view and discuss their practical work. Lecturers also use the tablet for guidance purposes. Our external partners, Construction Skills also use our tablets to provide learners with their progress reviews. In essence what learners have at the end of their course is a portfolio of their achievements, both written and visual, that they can take with them and demonstrate to potential employers as evidence of their skills and experience.

## **Use of Tablet PCs in other areas of the College**

### **Hairdressing**

Level 3 hairdressing students all have folders on a tablet PC, where they store photographic 'before and after' evidence and completed electronic consultation sheets of all their practical assessments.

### **Business and Administration**

In Business, one of the lecturers uses the tablet with students who are following an SVQ in Business & Administration and who are assessed in the workplace. The lecturers finds it really helpful during an observation to be able to write up the task whilst the student is working, as this means that all the learner's activities can be captured. There is immediate feedback for the student and the evidence is available to print and/or add to the candidate's electronic portfolio.

## **Outcomes and Impact**

The use of tablet PCs for e-assessment has been a tremendous success and well received by both learners and staff. There have been a number of benefits:

- Savings and efficiencies in assessment with a reduction in administrative time and paperwork.
- Immediate feedback for learners with access to their own personalised electronic multi-media portfolio of work.
- Assessments are readily and easily accessible to external awarding bodies.
- Learners prefer the use of e-assessments. It means that they can concentrate on the practical aspects of their course.
- Learners take more responsibility for their learning and achievements.
- Digitising assessment has delivered savings as well as improved responsiveness for learners. Results are instantly available and analysis of assessment data made more effective.
- Learners welcome the easy access and flexibility that has come with a switch to e-assessment.
- The deployment of tablet PCs has provided a consistent and coherent approach to e-assessment across the entire construction faculty.
- Preparation and archive of portfolios at the push of a button.

## The Future

Such has been the success of the use of tablets for learning, teaching and assessment, there are plans to use them more widely in other curriculum areas. For example, **Hospitality** plan to use the tablet PC to update the Stores Checklist which students need to complete and hand in to the Stores Assistant. They will be able to tick what is required, add any additional needs, save and e-mail it to the Stores Assistant.

In **Business Administration**, lecturing staff will use tablets next session when they introduce the HND Year 2 course. They will also be used for confravision to allow students to have meetings when in different rooms. For **Outreach Activities**, staff use the tablet, as it is light and easy to carry. Where there is Internet access they can use it to access attendance records and learning and teaching materials.



## Useful Links

[www.south-lanarkshire-college.ac.uk](http://www.south-lanarkshire-college.ac.uk)

[www.rsc-sw-scotland.ac.uk/best\\_of\\_the\\_west/BoW.htm](http://www.rsc-sw-scotland.ac.uk/best_of_the_west/BoW.htm)

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