

A SMASHing approach for developing staff and student digital capabilities within a Community of Practice



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Background to SMASH



#SocMed16

JESS, CORRAN, SHER &
OLA

Applied & Awarded
Free Place



First Meeting

First meeting as the newly formed SMASH Team with the four founding members (Corran, Jess, Sher & Ola).



Three Pillars

Developed the three pillars theory which discussed Learning Activities, Organising Learning & Showcasing Learning within the topic of education.



First Blog Post

Guest Blog Post



Framework – The Three Pillars

Learning Activities

Helping staff to identify and use social media tools for communication and collaboration within and beyond the classroom.

Organising Learning

Helping students and staff to identify and use relevant social media tools to curate and organise information relating to learning.

Showcasing Learning

Helping students to prepare digital portfolios to openly share outcomes and projects to develop a professional online presence.

Resources



Developing a home for a toolkit which could be used by others to plan activities/case studies



The Initial Framework, First Infographic, Snow Day Post



How members of staff can utilise social medias within their teaching



Developing Digital Capabilities of Staff

What did we learn about staff from the workshop?

- Staff agree that social media can be used to enhance their learning
- Agree that current university platform requires more flexibility
- Support the idea of tracking student progress
- Feel the need to support individual learning through group work



VS

What staff valued using these social media tools for learning

- **Google Apps** – Efficient engagement amongst student groups
- **Trello** – Divide responsibility and maintain accountability
- **Blogging** – Track student progress
- **YouTube** – More flexible learning
- **WhatsApp** – Generating student community, with direct messaging

Developing Digital Capabilities of Students

What did we learn about students from the workshop?

- Students agree that social media can be used to enhance their learning
- Welcome the idea of having direct messaging chat support via Twitter for quicker responses
- Supportive of Socrative and working in teams when completing online quizzes
- Learning content can be subconsciously viewed whilst using social media

VS

What students valued using these social media tools for learning

- **Google Apps** – Collaboration
- **Trello** – Project management on group projects
- **Twitter** – Links to resources
- **Socrative** – Engaging / Anonymous
- **YouTube** – Visually appealing and accessible to students

Developing Digital Capabilities of Self

"I've gained experience surrounding the use of social media to enhance learning and efficient collaboration"

Callum

"I've learnt the benefits of multiple social media technologies and how they can benefit learning."

Abby

"Over the past two years, I have learnt about the flexibility of social media, how it can be used in education from many different directions & ultimately, how to work in a team of diverse people."

Corran

"I've learnt how to create engaging content using digital tools such as Canva for my social media campaigns"

Matty

"I've learnt how to overcome communication obstacles throughout this year, and the sheer amount of research on social media there is to be done"

Jess

Value of a Virtual Community of Practice (vCoP)

“Greater digital knowledge gained through discussion and companionship”

Matty

“Developing a rapport with team members from different backgrounds through digital platforms”

Callum

“Using apps such as Skype allow us to meet virtually in any location, allowing us to keep flexible with our studies”

Corran

“Enhancing learning through partnerships with other students”

Abby

“Using FaceTime allowed me to participate in SMASH meetings whilst I was on the other side of the country!”

Jess

Next Steps



Capturing interest this year, current placement students and first and second year students



Attend and present at multiple different conferences including: RAISE conference in September and SocMedHE19 conference...



Focus on the development of the group including: Future group leaders and progression after university

Thank you for Listening



Sue Beckingham: @suebecks

Corran Wood: @Corran_SHU

Matty Trueman: @Matty_Trueman

Callum Rooney: @callum_rooney95

Abby Butler: @abbybutler96

Jess Paddon: @JessPaddonSHU

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