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B1: Using and resisting Facebook for back channel discussions: two experiences, two views

Louise Mycroft – The Northern College

Alison Iredale – University of Huddersfield (University campus Oldham)
Inspiring tomorrow’s professionals
Back channel discussions – the what and the why

Louise

- residential blocks of in-service training
- trainees potentially recruited from across England and Wales
- rethink as ‘blended learning’: need to engage trainees outside residentials

Alison

- Weekly classes of in-service and pre-service training
- “IT for Teachers” programme as part of personal skills development
- MSc Action Research module - twitter hashtag #mscmmel
Northern College Cert Ed/PGCE/BA/Graduates
- ‘closed group’ on Facebook
- 57 members (75 current students)
- message board (queries/mutual support)
- monthly discussion groups (question posed by students)
- Tweets posted automatically to inform/inspire debate

Northern College Facebook Group
Other Platforms

Northern College Cert Ed/PGCE/BA/Graduates
- growing Twitter presence for TeachNorthern ‘brand’
  #teachingforasocialpurpose
- Northern Eye VLE
- UniLearn discussion board and local materials
- BA Collaborative Journal (Campus Pack)
- Weekly catch-up email
- Texts to all at key encouragement points
Other ways of generating and sustaining back channel discussions

- **Twitter**
  - Followers
  - Re-tweeting and Favourites
  - Lists
  - Daily newspapers and Scoop-it

- **Drop Box**
- **Posterous**
- **Blogs and wikis**
Re-tweeting and favourites

Steve Wheeler @timbuckteeth
5 ways to build a powerful learning network steve-wheeler.blogspot.com/2012/01/build-...
Retweeted by Alison Iredale

Kevin Corbett @kevin_corbett
Stanford University Provides Free Online Classes On Everything From Game Theory to Anatomy [VIDEO] ow.ly/8BzZ7
Retweeted by Alison Iredale
View video

Alison Iredale @alisoniredale

Inspiring tomorrow’s professionals
Tweetdeck - Following, mentions, hashtags and followers

Inspiring tomorrow’s professionals
Lists

Active educators
246 members

Education by Going Global 2012
499 members

CanadianEducators by demacisaac
Canadian educators on twitter
44 members

purposed by Martin Hawksey
The 'What’s the purpose of education?' - http://purposed.org.uk/

Inspiring tomorrow’s professionals
Followers

Inspiring tomorrow’s professionals
What the literature tells us

- Emerging professional use of Facebook (Hart and Steinbrecher, 2011)
- Used to communicate with known individuals; potential for privacy risks (Hew, 2010)
- Potential for use by students to organise classroom experiences (Lampe, Wohn, Vitak, Ellison and Wash, 2011)
- Opportunity for professionals to network and share ideas (Rutherford, 2010)
- ‘Connectivism’: different platforms, different purposes (Bell, 2011)
What Next?

• Collecting qualitative and quantitative data on usage of Northern College Facebook page
• Continuing to read, communicate and network via Twitter
• Possible future academic research collaboration

What does the future hold for Pedagogy 2.0?
Resistance is futile?

Hart, J and Steinbrecher, T (2011) OMG! Exploring and Learning from Teachers’ Personal and Professional Uses of Facebook in *Action in Teacher Education* 33.4 [UK Online] retrieved 16.1.12 from Taylor and Francis Online


