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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)
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 residential

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

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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

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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/

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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?

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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


Wheeler, S. (2012) Me or the community?. Learning with ‘e’s, [blog] 21/01/2012, Available at: http://steve-wheeler.blogspot.com/2012/01/me-or-community.html [Accessed: 29/01/12].