



Sharing Good Practice Newsletter

January 2010

I have decided in this edition of the Newsletter to introduce more examples of our good practice that have been identified by our students and other stakeholders. I think it is increasingly important to see ourselves from a learner's perspective.

It also seems appropriate to mention the Student Association. This has got off to a really good start thanks to the hard work of the Student Association President Kenny Macleod and his Executive. The work of the Student Association has helped with the development of Department Councils. In turn these will help the student representatives to provide productive feedback to assist the College in moving forward.

Cross College Good Practice

You said...We did...

You will have seen posters, menu cards and screen savers telling you about this process for obtaining views and feedback from students, staff and other stakeholders.

Comments cards have been made available at each reception area and boxes provided to return these.

Boards for follow-up responses will make this more visible by displaying actions leading from comments and suggestions.

This is a very important part of our processes for obtaining learner's suggestions and ideas and to help us to respond to any problems.

We aim for

'You said...We did...'

to be a key element in empowering students and other users of the College to play an active part in helping us to continuously enhance quality.

Enhance and My CPD

Two linked processes have been introduced to support CPD. These are Enhance and My CPD.

Enhance was developed following an internal review of the peer evaluation process the College had been using for a number of years. The review suggested we needed to refresh our existing approach. Aimed at qualified lecturing staff and programme leaders Enhance builds on our previous CPD, individual annual review and peer evaluation systems. It brings them together in a coherent whole in response to staff feedback. Enhance is built on a number of themes and introduces Tercets. These encourage professional development and aim to improve reflective practice.

For non-teaching staff and for those lecturing currently taking apart in either PDA Introduction to Lecturing or TQFE, My CPD has been developed. This also provides an opportunity to collate information that supports continuous professional development and helps staff to make the most of opportunities available within the College.

Feedback from students and other stakeholders identifying good practice

“Detailed and helpful information for people interested in ESOL received from the ESOL Administrator”. Current ESOL student

“Very impressed with the new premises”. City and Guilds external verifier

“On-line access to HNC Counselling is a big help to students” SQA external verifier

“Has broadened horizons and gets things changed” Landbased student commenting on having a say in the way he learned.

Having a say in the way our course is delivered has led to “start times being changed” (Art student), “having breaks switched around” (Catering student)

“Find the Job Club helpful” Access students

“Have found career guidance, placements and UCAS support helpful” Care students

“When asked about having a say in the way they learn Technology students said “lecturers ask for student views, listen to what students say and will make changes”. The same group believe they are “well supported across the board”

There has been a lot of good practice in relation to groups of students taking part in activities involving collections for charities. Charities include poppy Appeal, Macmillan Cancer, Baby Care Unit (BGH), Shoe Box Appeal and Children in Need. Also NC Digital media group are “doing website work for a number of charities” and Access students ran a Christmas Fayre

“Course tutors were excellent, have helped above and beyond expectations” Business students

Good practices from around the departments

Business students are now using Blogs and Wikis for some of their units such as the Local Investigations Unit. Helen Huddleston is also using a Wiki to keep in touch with NC Business and IT students regarding the fund raising event that they are organizing.

The Business Department have also put in place work on developing websites for local charities as an alternative to work placement for NC Digital Media students.

Evelyn Chelley and Julie Baxter have developed a Moodle page for HNC Health Care. This has the timetable for the whole year and contains lots of information and links which students need to know about including referencing, plagiarism the e-library. It also provides a good means of communicating information to the students since they all go out on placement for blocks of 5 or 10 weeks. In addition if lecturers are off because of ill health, the Department can give them study information.

<http://moodle.borderscollege.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=336>

The Care Department have developed a wiki for the student handbooks this year. This saves an enormous amount on printing costs (25-30 pages for every student in the dept). This allows lecturers to update it or make changes but students have read-only rights. It's at an early stage and isn't very 'snazzy' at the moment but it is a work in progress and the hope is that more people will get involved and improve it gradually.

<http://carestudenthandbook.pbworks.com/>

The Whitchester group (Dee Woodger) hosted a visit as part of the HMIE Inspection for Berwickshire High School catchment area. This takes into account Community Learning & Development activity as well as school provision. As partners the Inspectors visited our provision at Whitchester.

Oonagh McGarry, Community Learning and Development Officer Scottish Borders Council, said "the contribution of specific partners to the overall provision will be acknowledged, where appropriate, in the final Inspector's report.

Your assistance is much appreciated and I sincerely hope that it was also a positive experience for you and the learners".

Further to this visit a workshop presentation was made to the National ESOL conference in Stirling on partnership working

Two excellent magazines have been produced by the Landbased and Leisure Department. One relates to Horse Care and the other Country Matters. One item in the Horse care magazine talked about past student Rachael Walker, who gained her SVQ level 3 Horse Care and Management award in 2005. Rachel entertained the Horse Care level 1 and 2 students with an insight into life as a groom at the Royal Dick Veterinary School in Edinburgh.

<http://www.borderscollege.ac.uk/news.php?a=289>

Service industries students and staff have found using a 'Graffiti Wall' very helpful to obtain quick feedback and take action.

An innovative 'Introduction to Childcare' short course has been introduced at Eyemouth by the Care Department. Initial comments from the Eyemouth Adult Learning Worker involved include "the course has been incredibly successful and the participants were very positive about the quality of learning"

Some good practices are starting to be delivered by the Tercet process within Enhance. One group, consisting of George McGill, Susie Rowley and Alan Tweedie, has been particularly successful in looking at each other's practices. This has included the group meeting with Librarian Jamie McIntyre to discuss the use of e-books. As George McGill pointed out, this and other benefits have been derived from "working as a team". Some interesting items that have been shared include the 'Bright Spark' tool for electrical students. This allows students to design their own circuits and test these safely in a virtual environment.

Elma Graham in the Business Department has developed a very useful guide to Harvard referencing. Set out in a very practical way and supported by short videos, this has been particularly helpful to the Borders Business Programme students.

Good Practice taken from HMIE Reviews

You can look at all the HMIE reports produced to date in full on:
www.hmie.gov.uk

Useful Websites

www.jorum.ac.uk
www.hmie.gov.uk/documents/publications/eqafsc.html
www.ariadne.ac.uk/issue45/
www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications
www.futureskillsscotland.org.uk
www.mori.com/ontrack/
www.ascol.org.uk
www.scqf.org.uk
www.iipscotland.co.uk
www.itspublicknowledge.info
www.nln.ac.uk
www.coleg.org.uk/coleg/55.html
www.commoncraft.com
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