



**MAKING LEARNING WORK**

# Creative Learning and Technologies Strategy 2017-22

## OUR MISSION

FORTH VALLEY COLLEGE'S MISSION OF **MAKING LEARNING WORK** HAS BEEN UNDERPINNED BY A SERIES OF CLEAR AND COMPREHENSIVE LEARNING STRATEGIES OVER THE LAST TEN YEARS, TAKING THE COLLEGE ON A JOURNEY FROM LISTENING TO LEARNERS, THROUGH ENGAGING LEARNERS AND EMPOWERING LEARNERS TO THE PRESENT.

These strategies have provided pragmatic and visionary blueprints for staff, to ensure that College students have consistently been supported to develop the skills essential for 21st century learning, life and work as part of a creative, engaging and vibrant learning organisation. These strategies have delivered positive outcomes for the college and its students. Learner success and positive destinations have increased; we have been recognised for our creative learning through national awards and have consistently received very positive Education Scotland external reviews.



**Making Learning Work**

## A TRANSITIONAL JOURNEY

For the next stage in our transformational journey, however, we must bring into even sharper focus the pivotal role that a rapidly-evolving world has on learners' needs. We are required to develop students and citizens who are creative, dynamic, flexible, change-ready and resilient, while embracing the role digital technologies now have in enabling, enhancing and extending learning and learners. The effective use of technology in learning is no longer an option. Our student body, who have grown up with digital technologies, expect these to be a central feature of their learning. Our employer stakeholders require their future employees to be digitally skilled, as well as possessing the skills, qualities and attributes that define a creative, dynamic, flexible, change-ready and resilient individual.

We will plan, resource and invest in IT to make technology a key agent for change, and we will give permission, flexibility and freedom to encourage creativity and innovation. This strategy will support all departments and college areas using a whole-system approach, and will also be used as the over-arching strategy in support of identified key sectors.

This integrated strategy will ensure that we continue to drive our momentum in creative pedagogies and the development of essential skills, but that we underpin this with a clear and deliverable commitment that all Forth Valley College learning will consistently make the most effective and creative use of digital technologies to benefit our students, staff and stakeholders.

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# Make Learning Work



# Creative Learning & Technologies Strategy



Consistent engaging, collaborative creative and blended approaches to learning

Resources to support learning available digitally, inclusive and accessible

All staff and students are digitally competent and confident



We use learning analytics effectively to understand and optimise student learning

Consistent, reliable access to the right equipment, resources and support

Safe, secure, robust and agile IT infrastructure

Delivering a whole system approach. Simple, effective, efficient and consistent

Cultivating a vibrant learning organisation where learners develop skills, achieve qualifications valued by industry and progress seamlessly

# HOW WE WILL ACHIEVE THIS:

- ✓ All staff consistently facilitate high quality, engaging, inclusive, collaborative and creative approaches to learning, making best use of a range of technologies to enhance and extend learning and empower students;
- ✓ Resources to support learning are available digitally in a variety of engaging and inclusive formats and are easily accessible anywhere and any time, from any device;
- ✓ All of our staff and students are digitally competent and confident to make best use of the technologies available;
- ✓ We use learning analytics effectively to understand and optimise student learning.;
- ✓ All of our students and staff have consistent, ready and reliable access to the right IT equipment, connectivity, resources and technical support to enable them to work and study effectively;
- ✓ Our IT infrastructure is safe, secure, robust and agile enough to embrace changing needs and practices.





# WHAT WILL IT LOOK LIKE BY 2022?

# 1.

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## **All staff consistently facilitate high quality, engaging, inclusive, collaborative and creative approaches to learning and support for learning, making best use of a range of technologies to enhance and extend learning and empower students;**

- ✓ All students benefit from creative approaches to learning that develop their creative habits of mind (inquisitive, persistent, imaginative, disciplined, collaborative) and wider essential skills;
  - ✓ All staff who teach are competent and confident in contemporary pedagogies and blended learning to a minimum standard;
  - ✓ All staff use blended technologies effectively to provide digital resources to support learning; flip learning; communicate with students; encourage active learning and collaboration; manage, mark and provide feedback on formative and summative assessments;
  - ✓ All staff actively access an on-going programme of high quality Career Long Professional Learning (CLPL) opportunities to further develop and enhance their professional practice (effective induction; teaching qualifications; peer learning; on-site support; observation/mentoring; Moodle courses; webinars and other development opportunities);
  - ✓ All staff routinely seek further opportunities to enhance and extend learning and empower students;
  - ✓ All staff make consistent and effective use of digital technologies for both formative and summative assessment.
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## 2.

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### **Resources to support learning are available digitally in a variety of engaging and inclusive formats and are easily accessible anywhere and any time;**

- ✓ All units/subjects have a Moodle course adhering to a minimum standard in terms of content and interactive activities;
  - ✓ All Moodle courses are actively used by students and staff;
  - ✓ Teaching that is information/knowledge based is captured digitally and made available in advance through Moodle, to support “flipped” learning and make more effective use of face to face time with students;
  - ✓ Learning resources are presented in a variety of media (for example video; interactive activities; captured classes/demonstrations; animations; virtual reality; learning objects) to offer students choice and discourage the printing of document-based materials;
  - ✓ All learning resources are inclusive and accessible with full functionality from all locations and devices meeting minimum specifications;
  - ✓ Staff are supported to source, evaluate and embed open digital learning resources and to develop their own resources.
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# 3.

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## **All of our staff and students are digitally competent and confident to make best use of the technologies available;**

- ✓ All students offered a place at college receive high quality and engaging pre-entry information and learning about college technologies;
  - ✓ All new students receive high quality and timely on site induction training on key learning technologies and are clear about the college's expectations for their use;
  - ✓ All students can access opportunities to further develop digital literacy skills for learning, life and work;
  - ✓ All staff have evaluated their competence and confidence against a framework of clearly identified key digital skills and have received training to ensure that they reach a required baseline competence level;
  - ✓ All staff have access to an on-going programme of high quality (CLPL) opportunities on learning technologies;
  - ✓ Peer support initiatives amongst learners (e.g. hardware support, MS Office support; Moodle Student Teachers); and staff (e.g. Moodle Champions) are well-supported by the college.
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# 4.

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## **We use learning analytics effectively to understand and optimise student learning;**

- ✓ We offer support to our students before they ask for it and improve retention and achievement.
  - ✓ We will have integrated datasets from a range of college systems, and from outwith the college, which will provide a rich source of data to allow forensic investigation;
  - ✓ We will provide college staff with meaningful information which will help identify earlier, students most at risk of withdrawing or not achieving;
  - ✓ We will provide our students with meaningful information which will show their interaction with the college during their course, compared to their peers;
  - ✓ We will enable students to rate Moodle sites and content to help improve quality;
  - ✓ We will continue to develop our systems to be outward-facing and to provide meaningful information to our students, staff, employers and stakeholders.
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# 5.

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**All of our students and staff have consistent, ready and reliable access to the right IT equipment, connectivity, resources and technical support to enable them to work and study effectively;**

- ✓ To promote mobility and flexible working, teaching staff and others who are not desk-based will be provided with a mobile device;
  - ✓ All classrooms will be equipped with sufficient portable devices to enable access to online resources for groups of students;
  - ✓ All classrooms will be equipped with a portable interactive board to promote flexible room layout and student interaction;
  - ✓ In addition to formal classrooms, flexible learning areas will be provided, equipped with PCs and printing facilities;
  - ✓ Staff and students will be supported effectively in the use of their own portable devices in college;
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# 6.

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## **Our IT infrastructure is safe, secure, robust and agile enough to embrace changing needs and practices;**

- ✓ The college's connectivity to the outside world will be at the highest speed available;
- ✓ We will have high density wireless access to enable consistency of service to a growing number of users and large groups of users in localised areas;
- ✓ Staff will have access to fast and reliable remote access, through which access to all college systems with full functionality is available;
- ✓ The college's network will be secure, with users knowledgeable and alive to potential cyber security risks;
- ✓ Communication will be enhanced with a collaborative on-line communication tool available on all college devices, static specialised video conferencing equipment will be available in the Boardrooms in all campuses, and we will have effective software to create virtual classrooms;
- ✓ We will make effective use of the cloud for both staff and students;
- ✓ We will plan our investment in IT to upgrade as technology advances.
- ✓ Seamless integration of all core systems for learning and teaching (Moodle, Mahara, My Info, Library Services, Onefile, Office365 and all future resources), supported through pass through of login credentials;
- ✓ Support for IT advancements/requests is responded to in a timely, customer focused manner, and is overseen by a SMT- led IT Service Management Group;
- ✓ Assistive technologies will be embedded across all college devices.

# How Will We Achieve This?

These **six ambitions** will each be underpinned by a five - year action plan, which will inform College and Department operational plans, and individual Personal Review and Development (PRD) targets.





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