

# RSC Newsletter

Spring 2009

Stimulating and supporting innovation in learning



## Improving Accessibility

Accessibility in learning is an important challenge and there have been several developments recently for those ready to implement inclusive practice in teaching and learning.

Inclusivity is a model of meeting accessibility requirements with a focus on changing practice as a whole, rather than just providing mechanisms to help overcome individual disadvantages. This is a major focus of the JISC Regional Support Centre for Yorkshire & Humber (JISC RSC YH) this year.

Autumn 2008 saw the launch of the new JISC RSC YH resource, 'Excellence in Inclusivity'. This website provides a central port of call for those researching inclusive technology and how

to embed it in teaching and learning. Users can view case studies on various technologies addressing different needs.

Other developments featured in this issue of the RSC Newsletter focus on resources developed by our partners. Our counterparts, JISC Regional Support Centre for Scotland North & East, have developed 'AccessApps', a handy collection of open source software for accessible learning. In addition, JISC TechDis have launched their new Online Accessibility Self Evaluation service and the Excellence Gateway has a new Accessibility in Learning section.

See inside to find out how these resources can benefit you and your organisation.

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# AccessApps: Get Yours!

A number of tools have been developed recently with the purpose of promoting and assisting the use of inclusivity and mobile learning.



One such tool, AccessApps, (developed by our partner, JISC RSC Scotland North & East) has been nationally acclaimed, winning the Scottish Open Source Award and has even been demonstrated at the House of Commons by Alistair McNaught from JISC TechDis.

Essentially, this is a collection of open source software for making learning more accessible and which can be carried on a memory stick and used on any PC.

It comes with a handbook which explains, in very simple terms, how the tools can be used by learners and staff alike as well as giving examples of their use in a learning context.

The JISC RSC YH will be distributing copies on memory sticks at some of our future events but meanwhile it can be downloaded from:

<http://www.rsc-ne-scotland.ac.uk/accessapps/>

## Mobile Learning and Inclusivity



The Yorkshire and Humber region has been very fortunate in attracting money for mobile learning over the past two years or so.

The Excellence in Inclusivity project, which the JISC RSC YH facilitated, attracted £800k of funding towards projects which were largely, although not exclusively, involved with mobile learning.

A particular aim of the project was the sharing of expertise gained. The organisations are now using the equipment purchased through the project and, as a part of the deal, have produced a number of short videos and case studies showing how the equipment is being used to great effect with their learners. These videos appear on the new Excellence in Inclusivity website: <http://inclusivity.rsc-yh.ac.uk>.

Users can browse the website to see the different kinds of technology employed, from digital cameras to the Nintendo Wii, and see how this technology assists a specific need in an inclusive way.

Further support for the programme has come in the form of a number of regular regional meetings. Meetings are hosted and chaired by one of the organisations in each sub-region and then rotated. The purpose of these meetings is to share expertise and examples of best practice and, if necessary, to discuss issues that have arisen in an open and supportive manner. Learning providers can also loan equipment from other learning providers.

You can view and contribute to the Excellence in Inclusivity forum by visiting our Learning Platform pages: <http://vle.rsc-yh.ac.uk/moodle>

Yorkshire and Humber seems set to become a centre of expertise on mobile learning and the JISC RSC YH hopes to support this with a number of focused events, one of which will be the Excellence in e-Learning event on April 29th.

Keep an eye on our website [www.rsc-yh.ac.uk](http://www.rsc-yh.ac.uk) for further information and events on inclusivity.

# Accessibility Self Assessment



JISC TechDis, in conjunction with the JISC Regional Support Centres, is now offering a free Online Accessibility Self Evaluation service.

There are six role-related online self-evaluations suitable for a wide range of teaching institutions and learning providers. For each role, the self-evaluations allow managers to explore the ways accessibility/inclusion can be integrated into mainstream teaching, learning and institutional processes.

JISC TechDis has developed a national programme, a web space area describing the process and the purpose at [www.techdis.ac.uk/getevaluated](http://www.techdis.ac.uk/getevaluated) and a sign up area for the national events, <http://tinyurl.com/td-signup>.

The beauty of the self-evaluation approach is that it is a very quick way of obtaining a measure of the extent to which good practice reasonable adjustments have permeated an organisation. Being role-focused it can give specific practical suggestions to the people with the responsibility and

authority to make things happen.

Whilst it is possible to conduct the self-evaluation on your own, it is not advisable. JISC TechDis discourages teaching institutions and learning providers approaching accessibility as a 'tick box exercise'. The value of the online event is that it provides important context and, more importantly, discussion about the priorities, how to implement and where to get suitable resources. This added value is vital if accessibility is to become embedded in the organisation.

There will be training slots for each of the six roles on two occasions each, between January and June 2009. It will usually be possible to squeeze in additional regional events where there is a critical mass of participants, for example by contributing to an existing forum meeting organised by the JISC RSC YH. If you want further details and information on this very timely new service, please contact Chris Barber, e-Learning Advisor, at the JISC RSC YH:

[c.p.barber@rsc-yh.ac.uk](mailto:c.p.barber@rsc-yh.ac.uk)

# Accessibility for Libraries

The JISC TechDis service has created a series of seven guides on different aspects of technology supporting disabled users in a library and learning resources context (available at [www.techdis.ac.uk/development/libraries](http://www.techdis.ac.uk/development/libraries)). The drafts of these include:

- Promoting your service
- Communication with users
- Accessing space and information
- Accessing study tools
- Alternative interfaces
- Alternative formats
- Policies

The seven guides form a valuable complement to the existing body of advice available from SCOUNL, COFHE and the MLA, focussing on the role of technology in supporting the learner in a library context.

These resources have been developed in collaboration with CILIP and SCOUNL from a series of six online library focus groups drawing in fifty participants from across the sectors in the UK.

# Excellence Gateway

JISC TechDis has also created a 'micro site' on the Excellence Gateway - Accessibility in Learning - full of resources that enable staff to create effective, engaging and accessible learning materials for their learners:

<http://excellence.qia.org.uk>

## Staff News...

Our e-Learning Advisor (ACL), Kevin Wright has married and changed his name to Kevin Campbell-Wright.



Kevin's email address has changed so please update your records to reflect his new email address:

[k.l.campbellwright@rsc-yh.ac.uk](mailto:k.l.campbellwright@rsc-yh.ac.uk)

Information Officer, Christine Sowden, has married and her name has now changed to Christine Comrie.



Christine's new email address is:

[c.comrie@rsc-yh.ac.uk](mailto:c.comrie@rsc-yh.ac.uk)

## Introducing..

Deborah Judah has joined our team as e-Learning advisor (HE) whilst Ali-Marie Ladwa is on maternity leave.

Deborah has worked in HE as a lecturer and in student support and has experience working with HEIs across Yorkshire.



She will be working with staff responsible for HE in FE colleges and small HEIs in the Yorkshire and Humber area focusing on providing strategic support for e-learning.

Deborah can be contacted by email:

[d.judah@rsc-yh.ac.uk](mailto:d.judah@rsc-yh.ac.uk)

## How e-Mature Are You?



The changes within the FE & Skills sector continue. As well as being uncertain times, these are also times of opportunity when we can take a fresh look at our approaches to Learning and Teaching.

With a focus on self regulation in FE & Skills, the National Improvement Strategy for the sector is being refreshed and is in the consultation process.

Over the last few years we have supported Learning Providers with e-learning strategy and analysing the position of their organisation to inform their implementation plans.

The organisational position is essential in determining what is achievable within a set timeline, and informing decisions around the purchasing and deployment of resources.

The original JISC RSC 'ILT Health Check' provided organisations with a positioning report informed by quantitative and qualitative data. The new 'e-Progress Review' tool (EPR), has been developed by the JISC RSCs London, South

West and YH to support the Learning Provider in self-assessing.

JISC RSC support is now focused on interpretation of the resulting report and facilitating discussion on strategic direction and implementation plans.

Becta is leading the development of the National e-Maturity Framework, working with Learning Providers and key stakeholders.

The National e-Maturity Framework for FE & Skills is a way for providers to "assess their own areas of excellence and focus their resources where technology can be harnessed to benefit learners, employers, teachers, managers and the organisation".

The Framework is currently being evaluated through regional focus groups before its full launch.

If you would like more information on how the JISC Regional Support Centre can help your organisation in implementing your e-learning strategy, please contact us: [support@rsc-yh.ac.uk](mailto:support@rsc-yh.ac.uk)

# ITT: Leading the Way



We are all aware of the professional standards for teachers to attain Qualified Teacher Learning & Skills (QTLS) status.

However it is not so widely known that four of the six domains make direct reference that teachers should make "appropriate use of new, and more importantly, emerging technologies".

How then can we ensure that our teacher trainees are competent with the technology that is available for teaching and learning? The obvious answer is through Initial Teacher Training (ITT) courses. However that statement raises yet more questions:

- Are teacher trainers au fait with the most up to date technology for learning?
- Do teacher trainers use technology for their own delivery to set the standard/ an example?
- Where do teacher trainers find out about technology for learning?

Resources are available for teacher trainers such as

Wakeyedia  
[www.wakeyedia.org.uk](http://www.wakeyedia.org.uk)

Teachers TV  
[www.teachers.tv](http://www.teachers.tv)

Futurelab  
[www.futurelab.org.uk](http://www.futurelab.org.uk)

But where can teacher trainers get together to discuss issues around technology for learning and share good practice in a supportive non judgemental environment? The JISC RSC YH is looking to hold a face-to-face forum for teacher educators where there will be demonstrations of how new technology is being used in teaching and learning and, more importantly, will be a chance for peers to get together, network and showcase practice to each other.

If you would like to hear more, contact [support@rsc-yh.ac.uk](mailto:support@rsc-yh.ac.uk)

Finally, one more question - as teacher educators shouldn't we be Leading the Way?

## New LSIS eCPD Programme

The Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS) has commissioned a new programme to support whole organisational approaches to the harnessing of technology for learning.

The eCPD Programme, part of the Teaching and Learning Programme, will develop materials and tools to support practitioners make more effective use of technology to improve teaching and learning.

Markos Tiris, Programme Director at LSIS, commented:

"This eCPD programme is an exciting opportunity for practitioners in the Further Education system to improve teaching and learning through the effective use of technology".

More details on the Programme are available at:

[www.bdplearning.com/ecpd](http://www.bdplearning.com/ecpd)

## Local Success!

The region has been successful in attracting funding as part of the eCPD Programme.

A total of eight providers have been awarded showcase projects funding - and one is from the Yorkshire & Humber region.

Congratulations goes to Northern College, who is demonstrating "innovative examples of e-learning being used to engage and motivate learners".

Details of the next round of showcase funding can be found at the BDP Learning website listed above.

# Case Studies in WBL

Two Work Based Learning providers from Yorkshire and Humber have featured in recent case studies on the Excellence Gateway.



Morthyng Ltd have 'put the E into the E2E process', developing a custom built database to improve their service. They also created a video induction to support the learners on their Entry to Employment scheme. The video proved a successful way to improve learner engagement



Oracle Training Consultants have developed a 'HairPod' for their students. Videos were recorded and loaded onto iPods, aiding visual learners and improving support for learners that spend more time training in the workplace than in the classroom. Oracle also found organisational advantages in adopting this technology.

To read these case studies - and others from around the region - visit the Case Studies page on our website:

[www.rsc-yh.ac.uk/casestudies.asp](http://www.rsc-yh.ac.uk/casestudies.asp)



## Support for WBL: One Year On



It is just over a year since the JISC RSC YH began its support for the Work Based Learning sector. Excellent contacts have been made with the WBL networks: Providers in Partnership, West Yorkshire Learning Partnership and Consortium for Learning.

Theresa Beattie, e-Learning Advisor (WBL), has also worked with individual Work Based Learning Providers on:

- Developing e-learning strategy
- Learning Innovation Grant Bids
- Presentations at WBL events (14-19, e2e Group, etc)
- General advice and guidance on how to enhance training and business through the use of new and emerging technologies

Yorkshire and Humber WBL providers achieved success in Phase 3 of the Learning Innovation Grant (LIG) and congratulations go to both local providers, their partners included in the bid and national providers with centres in our region including:

Derwent Training Association, Dimensions Training Solutions, DISC (Developing Initiatives Supporting Communities), General Physics UK, Hargreaves Training Services Ltd, Humberside Engineering Training Association Ltd (HETA), IGEN Ltd, In Touch Care, JHP Group Ltd T/A JHP Training, Rathbone, The Academy (Malton) Limited, Virtual College Limited, and YMCA Training.

Congratulations also go to Assessment Centre for Voluntary Organisations (ACVO) and Whitby & District Fishing Industry Training School Ltd for their success in gaining LIG4 funding.

Continued support from the JISC RSC YH will include support for Senior Managers with e-Learning Strategy, events on topics important to the sector, and information, advice and guidance on funding initiatives, new and emerging technologies and continued contact with eligible providers.

For more details, contact Theresa Beattie, e-Learning Advisor (WBL): [t.beattie@rsc-yh.ac.uk](mailto:t.beattie@rsc-yh.ac.uk)

## e-Learning in HE: New Support



Preparations are well under way for the next in our "e-Learning in HE" series. The inaugural event took place last February and proved popular, with workshops focussing on topics such as "Who needs a VLE?", "Implementing Online Assessment", and "Delivering an Agenda for Change".

This year's event sees renewed focus on strategy and practice. Themes are:

- Innovation in Teaching & Learning
- Looking beyond the institution
- Supporting students
- Projects and research

This year's event promises to be as popular. Visit our website for more details on the event and how to book your place.

"e-Learning in HE" is accompanied by new, additional support for our contacts working in HE/ HE in FE this year in the form of increased targeted support for Learning Technologists.

According to the ALT (Association of Learning Technologies) website: "Learning technologists are people who are actively involved in managing, researching, supporting or enabling learning with the use of learning technology...you do not have to be called or to call yourself a learning technologist to be one".

The first Learning Technologist support event took place in November and was successful in bringing people together to network, keep updated and be able to share best practice with others working in the region.

We have continued this support online through My RSC YH Space - our own social networking site - with the Learning Technologists forum group. There are almost 200 members on My RSC YH Space - all teaching professionals. Find out more about the site on the back page of the newsletter.

Look out for a similar Learning Technologists forum later in the year. For more details, contact Deborah Judah, e-Learning Advisor (HE): [d.judah@rsc-yh.ac.uk](mailto:d.judah@rsc-yh.ac.uk)

## Feedback on 2008 event

"Good venue, good speakers, good pace, good networking possibilities"

"Very interesting, informative event"

"Well organised, great value, good pace"

"Practical tools to use directly in my teaching were very useful, in particular, TechDis session"

"Four extremely interesting, informative and challenging sessions"

"Interesting and reflective"

## Updated HE Publication Available

The updated version of last year's paper accompanying our signature Higher Education event is now available.

The paper covers summaries of all the workshops, including explorations of using technologies such as Skype, blogging, podcasts, e-portfolios, and more.

Visit our website to download your copy of "e-Learning in HE":

[www.rsc-yh.ac.uk/he.asp](http://www.rsc-yh.ac.uk/he.asp)

PLEASE NOTE the date of the next e-Learning in HE conference is **Wednesday 11th March 2009** - not Thursday 26th February 2009, as previously advertised.

## Feedback on 2008 event:

The JISC Regional Support Centre for Yorkshire & Humber e-Learning Conference 2008 - "Learning Excellence: Making It Happen" - was very well received.

Taking place amidst the innovative new build at the University of Bradford in June 2008, delegates heard thought-provoking presentations from key speakers, George Trow, Laura Overton and Will Stewart.

Delegates also attended their choice from a wide variety of workshops and got to grips with items like the Nintendo Wii in the Interactive Area. Advisors were on hand to show 'how to' and there was the opportunity to borrow Disgo camcorders and Asus EeePCs. Many delegates were prize winners on the day.

These are a selection of comments from those who attended:

"The presentations were very good. Will Stewart was particularly thought provoking."

"I found the presentations very valuable and eye opening."

"Very useful – it gave me a good idea about future development in education."

"Very useful, as I can now take back ideas to my department and use these examples to discuss what to do next and sources of funding."

"Excellent – inspirational! Gave me some good ideas."

"Very useful... I will be passing info on."

"Provided insight into how others are doing things as well as national priorities re. e-Maturity."

## Annual Conference Time!



Get ready for the JISC RSC YH e-Learning Conference 2009!

The question this year is: How can we advance teaching, learning and skills development by effectively examining, experimenting, evaluating and integrating new technologies?

The conference takes place in June and will explore practical solutions, at all levels, through showcasing different approaches to learning using technology. These approaches will demonstrate how a 'joined up' approach has achieved a measurable impact on learners' engagement, retention and achievement.

Delegates will be able to follow a 'journey' through the event - in workshops, interactive zones, the exhibition, and 'how to' sessions - in these themes:

- Engaging all learners
- Assessing learning
- Learning without walls

We are currently looking for contributors to the conference. We want to hear from you if you have:

- an approach to learning and teaching that embeds technology
- an approach that has the potential to make an impact on learning
- a new approach to learning and teaching

The aim is for delegates to be able to experience a personal learning 'journey', explore JISC Services and resources, and also network with others in the region to share and discuss ideas and practice.

By the end of this conference, delegates will be able to reflect on practice within their job role, and organisation, on the use of technology in learning, and be better informed to develop strategies for moving forward.

Visit our website [www.rsc-yh.ac.uk](http://www.rsc-yh.ac.uk) for details on how to submit a contribution to the conference.

# Offers for Technical Staff!

# Webinars

We are experimenting with online events this year. You may have spotted the webinars we have already hosted on Sharepoint, Virtualisation and Network Trouble-Shooting Tools.

You only need a computer and an internet connection to view online events.

Delegates report on the convenience of attending events at their own desk. They are also great if you don't have much time to spare.

We plan to expand this range of events and explore an even wider range of subjects. Keep checking our Events page on the website for regular updates of forthcoming events.

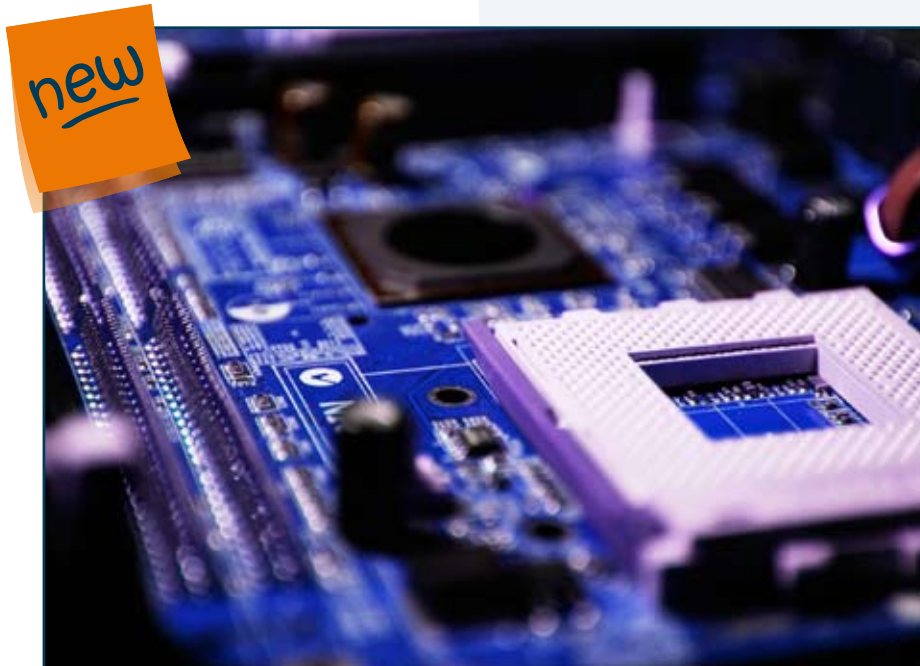
## Latest Case Study from Region Live on Gateway

The latest case study to go live on the Excellence Gateway focuses on York College and their New Build project.

JISC Regional Support Centres across England are working with the Excellence Gateway to provide examples of best practice in e-learning.

You can access examples from our region via our website: [www.rsc-yh.ac.uk/casestudies.asp](http://www.rsc-yh.ac.uk/casestudies.asp)

If you have an example of good practice, contact Christine Comrie, Information Officer: [c.comrie@rsc-yh.ac.uk](mailto:c.comrie@rsc-yh.ac.uk)



To enhance our support for Technical Managers within Supported Providers, we are funding a range of new initiatives in 2008/09:

**Books247** – We are funding subscriptions to Books247. Books from Wrox, McGraw-Hill, Microsoft Press and many more, contribute front-list, best selling, classic and niche titles. ITPro also includes community-driven content, developed as a direct result of user requests, provides coverage of specific aspects of technology and on emerging technologies - coverage that is not readily available from traditional sources. Online 24/7 access.

**How to Apply:** Please email [support@rsc-yh.ac.uk](mailto:support@rsc-yh.ac.uk) for subscription details.

**Taming The Macintosh** – We ran these courses at NTI, Leeds in October 2008. From the basics of how to navigate around the Macintosh interface to disk imaging and Active Directory integration, these courses enable Technical support staff to look after Mac users as

easily as they do PC users!

**How to Apply:** We are looking to re-run this course. Please contact [support@rsc-yh.ac.uk](mailto:support@rsc-yh.ac.uk) if you wish to attend.

**JANET Technical Training** - JANET Training run a portfolio of courses specifically written for the JANET community and delivered by experts working in UK education. The courses give you a chance to train with colleagues working in a similar environment.

**How to Apply:** Fill in the online application form on our website explaining why the training would benefit your organisation. Successful applicants will have to provide a short case study on the outcomes of the training.

Please note: Places will be agreed on application content and on a 'first come' basis. Subsidised places will cover course fees only and cancellations will be charged the full cost of the training.

[www.rsc-yh.ac.uk/techoffers.asp](http://www.rsc-yh.ac.uk/techoffers.asp)

## How To...

# How to find a cheap voting system for the classroom

Voting Systems are popular in learning, but can be expensive and complicated to set up. A quick and cheap solution is online text message voting systems.

There are several, some of which are free while others rely on either purchase or subscription. Users choose a preference from the screen, note a corresponding number and text it to a standard rate mobile number. While standard text rates apply, many people now have free texts as part of their tariff.

JISC RSC YH recently tried out [www.smspoll.com](http://www.smspoll.com). The free service is limited to 25 votes per poll.

The results looked good, fed from the web into PowerPoint. The instructions to set it up were quick, easy to follow and effective.

If you have used online text message voting systems then we would like to hear from you! You could become the next subject of a case study for the Excellence Gateway. For more details, visit the 'Case Studies' section on our website:

[www.rsc-yh.ac.uk/casestudies.asp](http://www.rsc-yh.ac.uk/casestudies.asp)

## Education Open for All



Adult learning isn't always naturally inclusive. Even an accomplished learner can feel fear entering a world of the unknown. Disaffected learners, who hated school or have not entered a classroom for years, must experience fear at a far more uncomfortable level.

Personalisation includes looking at the viewpoint of these learners, many of whom already use technology, regardless of their age. Texting and Facebook are no longer just the domain of the young.

So, how can technology help disaffected learners? Can it ensure that the social, institutional and physical barriers they face are overcome in a way that enables them to reach their learning outcomes?

Many institutions use technology before the learning even starts. Prospective students can get details via text message and university students join Facebook groups about the university, their course and even their hall, meaning they've met other students before clearing finished!

These tools are free to set up.

Once in the classroom, students can submit their work digitally using VLEs and e-portfolios. Now, free web applications like Google Apps and Moodle mean providers can set up portfolios at no cost, leaving learners with a set of skills that equip them for employment and digital portfolios to showcase even after they leave. What's more, adaptive technology can mean learners with difficulties, disabilities or language barriers, can access this learning for the first time.

This is where we come in. Our showcase events highlight applications and projects like the above and provide discussions on their application. Our Learning Platform provides support. Advisors work with managers to develop strategies that address access needs.

Technology doesn't solve everything, but, in a world where our learners already engage with it, strategies must reflect this to ensure learning is as welcoming and inclusive as possible.

# News Round-Up



## JISC RSC YH Winner!

Congratulations to Pauline Rowe, Vice Principal of Calderdale College!

Kathy Boyer, e-Learning Advisor, presented Pauline with a £100 Amazon voucher after she was randomly picked from those that had completed the JISC Regional Support Centre Customer Satisfaction Survey 2008.

The Customer Satisfaction Survey (CSS) provides the JISC RSC YH with invaluable feedback on how we are doing in supporting learning providers in the region. We received a positive response, with over 90% of respondents rating the quality of our service as 'Good' or 'Excellent'. The CSS is sent out to key contacts at the end of every academic year.

## Beacons

Congratulations to Hull College and Notre Dame Catholic Sixth Form College for gaining Learning and Skills Beacon status!

Further Education Minister Siôn Simon awarded Learning and Skills Beacon status to 13 Further Education and skills providers recently. The highly regarded Beacon status provides public recognition for excellence and innovation and celebrates learning providers that deliver outstanding teaching and learning.



## Local Success at Handheld Learning Awards

Chris Tansey, Foundation Course Leader at Wyke College, has won in the Special Needs Practitioner category at the Handheld Learning Awards!

Chris adopted an unusual method when applying for the funding for assistive equipment. Instead of focusing on a few items of equipment, Chris bought one of every gadget he was interested in. This 'scattergun' approach worked and has led to a new way of thinking when rolling mobile learning projects out to colleges. Congratulations Chris!

# Regional Providers Nominated for Becta Awards

Several learning providers in the Yorkshire & Humber region have been included in the shortlist for Becta's newest award scheme, the Next Generation Learning Awards.

Congratulations go to:

- In Touch Care
- North Yorkshire County Council
- Henshaws College

The awards, which were launched earlier in the year, celebrate the creative use of ICT in the further education (FE) and skills sector.

The shortlisted organisations will find out how they have fared against the competition at the awards ceremony being held at the National Science Museum in London on 4 March 2009.

## Exchange

Keep up to date with funding calls, new resources, training opportunities and details of new initiatives by visiting our news blog, Exchange. The link and newsfeed can be found on our website:

[www.rsc-yh.ac.uk](http://www.rsc-yh.ac.uk)

If you have an item to add to Exchange, please contact Christine Comrie, Information Officer:

[c.comrie@rsc-yh.ac.uk](mailto:c.comrie@rsc-yh.ac.uk)

# Useful Links

## JISC RSC YH Learning Platform

A structured virtual learning environment (VLE), our Learning Platform is a source of information from our events. It is a repository of presentations as well as information relating to our JISC RSC YH forums, where users can exchange and share information in user groups.

## JISC RSC YH Exchange

Regular posts with details of news, events, funding opportunities and free resources, divided into appropriate sectors. You can also sign up to receive the fortnightly e-bulletin digest of the most important recent posts.

## My RSC YH Space

Our informal social network to share and discuss ideas and developments in e-learning with peers. Upload photos and videos and view contributions made by other members. Write and read blogs, make and view podcasts, ask questions and share good practice. Join in!

All the above links can be found via our website:

[www.rsc-yh.ac.uk](http://www.rsc-yh.ac.uk)

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# Editorial

This issue of our newsletter focuses on accessibility and inclusion and I am particularly pleased with how well our Excellence in Inclusivity website has been received both in the region and nationally.

The website is an output of the innovative Learning & Skills Council (Yorkshire & Humber) and JISC RSC YH project linked to the Learning for Living and Work grants last year.

The project has provided not just support for learning providers in identifying, sourcing and implementing resources for learners with specific needs, but has drawn out the impact on the learner and the organisation through short video case studies available on the website.

I strongly recommend the site for a visit (<http://inclusivity.rsc-yh.ac.uk>). We do not intend this to be a static site and we will be adding new materials to the site to reflect experiences during this academic year.

We will use the Excellence in Inclusivity website to feed into our Annual Conference this year, which promises to be a



very special event. We are well into the planning for the event, which takes place in June, and this year we will be including a large exhibition area with even more opportunities to try out technology in a learning context and more opportunities to attend a wider range of workshops, including a 'How to..' strand.

The day will have something for all managers and practitioners in supported sectors. I look forward to seeing you on the day!

Marion Miller, Manager  
JISC RSC YH

## Future Events: Spring 2009

3 Mar	Excellence in Inclusivity
4 Mar	Federated Access Management
11 Mar	e-Learning in HE
1 Apr	Moodle User & Admin Group Forum
29 Apr	Excellence in e-Learning Forum
June	JISC RSC YH Annual e-Learning Conference 2009