TITLE

Agile exam preparation

KEY CONCEPTS

Revision, exams, smart-assessment, developing understanding, creating digital resources

NARRATIVE OVERVIEW

Peter is a teacher who believes that technology can challenge learners to develop and communicate their understanding of curriculum topics in preparation for exams. He's also interested in his students developing the skills of communication and peer-teaching. Peter shares the exam requirements with the learners as a 'problem' and asks them to come up with solutions. Having identified areas of the curriculum that need to be studied, Peter and his students use digital tools to share ideas and recognise gaps in understanding.

Peter directs the learners to an online bank of learning resources and activities which they might find useful. He asks individuals and groups of learners to construct learning and revision resources using technologies and techniques of their choice (eg e-flash-cards, videos, podcasts, animations). Peter monitors and coordinates the development of these resources and students evaluate each others' resources. The resources are shared in a communal online space that is accessible outside of school.

Peter feels that he is satisfying the demands of the exam system whilst still engaging in innovative teaching. He shares what he has done with colleagues. An online event is organised to disseminate these practices. Collaborators are invited to participate in these learner-led revision exercises on a larger scale.

TREND/S

Encouraging independence, or not?

Better performing teachers are being promised more independence in several education systems in Europe, but assessment and accountability systems are still hard to change. This puts many teachers in awkward and frustrating situations, in which their ability and willingness to innovate are compromised by tight controls and external pressures and expectations. For this reason, the current trend is that most teachers still choose to "play it safe" rather than being independent and taking risks.

VISION (ASPIRATIONS & AIMS)

- to support learners to use technology effectively to enhance their exam preparation and to develop their communication skills

ENVIRONMENT

- students develop resources in classrooms, resource centres or outside of the classroom (eg filming a video outdoors)
- these resources once shared can be used for revision at home
- online environment for sharing resources

PEOPLE & ROLES

- teacher actively facilitating and managing students' revision and their use of technology to communicate understandings
- learners developing understanding of exam requirements through communication using digital technologies and peer-teaching

INTERACTIONS (INCL. PEDAGOGIES)

- students peer-to-peer teaching/revising
- learner-led

ACTIVITIES

- learners plan, develop, share and evaluate resources that support revision of topics, using a variety of technologies

RESOURCES (INCL. TECHNOLOGIES)

- existing learner resource bank/tools
- digital technologies used to create resources (eg e-flash cards, videos, podcasts etc.)
- an online event/space to share outcomes