

## How can ICT support personalisation?

Terms like 'learning platforms' and 'e-portfolios' are becoming common currency in the post 16 sector. Both support personalisation by storing data in ways that help to transfer responsibility for learning to the student. A recent survey of colleges shows that some learning platforms are beginning to make a real contribution to personalising learning:

- around half of college platforms can associate individual learners with particular courses and with particular preferences, and
- just under 20% of platforms can remember where a student has got to in a particular course.

ICT and e-learning in FE survey (Becta, November 2006. Publication available from: <http://learningandskills.becta.org.uk/>)

Some colleges make use of e-portfolios for managing evidence of learning. E-portfolios are a personal online space, where learners can store their work, record their achievements, link to other learners and access personal course timetables and digital resources. In another survey, students said they saw them as "a tool to market yourself" and "an online CV that gets updated every time you do something", whilst their teachers viewed them as "a method of recording and reflecting on skills" and "a career development tool". There was also evidence that e-portfolios helped students to learn:

- 62% of FE/secondary students felt that e-portfolios helped them think about their own learning
- 52% felt e-portfolios helped them judge if they've improved
- 89% of teachers felt that e-portfolios helped their students to be better organised.

The impact of e-portfolios on learning (Becta, June 2007. Publication available from <http://partners.becta.org.uk/>)

**82%**

of colleges used a virtual learning environment in 2006 compared with 59% in 2003

**62%**

of college staff were competent or advanced in using ICT with learners in 2006 compared with 42% in 2003

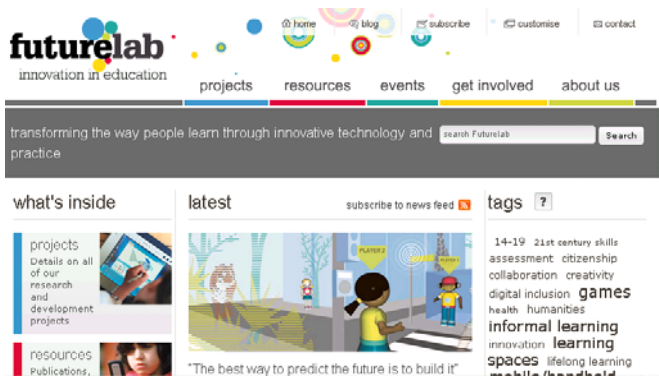
**80,000**

computers were purchased by colleges in 2006

Source: ICT and E-learning in FE survey (Becta, 2006)

Could you do more to utilise systems for storing data? Could you for example, encourage students to store different stages of a project and monitor their progress with it, as a way of encouraging your students to take on responsibility for their own learning? (For examples of how some colleges use learning platforms and e-portfolios to support personalisation, see Becta's Testbed website: [www.evaluation.icctestbed.org.uk/research/show](http://www.evaluation.icctestbed.org.uk/research/show))

## Hot website



The screenshot shows the Futurelab website homepage. At the top left is the logo "futurelab" with the tagline "innovation in education". To the right of the logo are navigation icons for home, blog, subscribe, customise, and contact. Below the logo is a horizontal menu with tabs for "projects", "resources", "events", "get involved", and "about us". A dark grey banner below the menu contains the text "transforming the way people learn through innovative technology and practice" and a search bar with the text "search Futurelab" and a "Search" button. The main content area is divided into three columns: "what's inside" with sub-sections for "projects" and "resources", "latest" with a featured article titled "The best way to predict the future is to build it" and a "subscribe to news feed" button, and "tags" with a list of keywords including "14-19", "21st century skills", "assessment", "citizenship", "collaboration", "creativity", "digital inclusion", "games", "health", "humanities", "informal learning", "learning", "innovation", "learning", "spaces", and "lifelong learning".

## Futurelab

The futurelab website houses a wealth of resources (articles, research reports, software, downloads, web tools and video clips) on a wide variety of themes, including personalisation, to support learning with ICT.

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