ENCOURAGING WEBCAM USE

STUDENTS

...were happy to be asked and encouraged directly (but not mandated) to use webcams

...were clear that other students having their webcams on was likely to encourage them to turn theirs on

"the purposefulness of cameras... has to be articulated and built into the what we're providing for students" - Staff member

BENEFITS

1. Social - creates a more personal and humanised learning environment. Become more familiar with tutor and other students.

2. Learning - helps students engage and focus on learning. Helps teaching staff gauge engagement and understanding.

3. Career and professional development- develops long-term employability skills
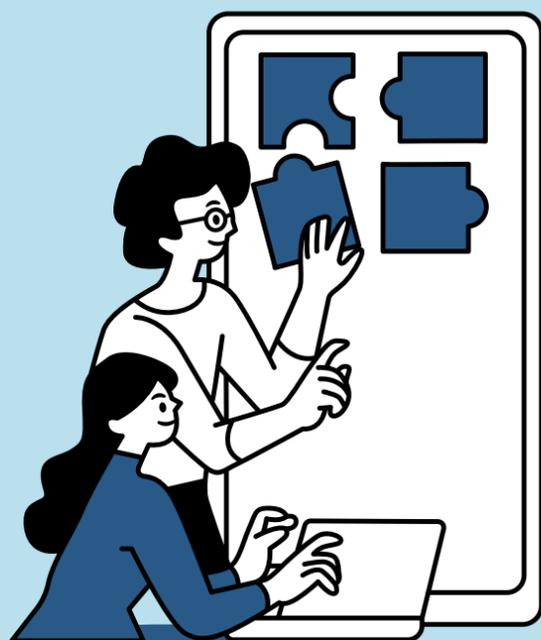
"maybe a bit of encouragement, or kind of ground rules about the use of webcams."- Student

"it's nice to speak to people's faces". - Student

STAFF & STUDENTS

Shared that while webcams are particularly valuable in seminars, small groups (breakout rooms) and one-to-one tutorials, they add little value in larger lecturers or information transfer approaches.

These findings suggest that:

It could be useful to have agreed approaches or expectations at programme or team level.

It may not be necessary for students to have webcams on throughout the entire session. Instead, it may be better to think flexibly and encourage webcam use when and where it will add learning value.

THE FINDINGS SUGGESTED HERE WAS CROWD-SOURCED THROUGH DISCUSSION WITH TEACHING STAFF AND CURRENT STUDENTS FROM ALL LEVELS AND FACULTIES.
THE STAFF SURVEY HAD 82 PARTICIPANTS, THE STUDENT SURVEY HAD 46 PARTICIPANTS AND THE FOCUS GROUPS HAD 8 PARTICIPANTS.
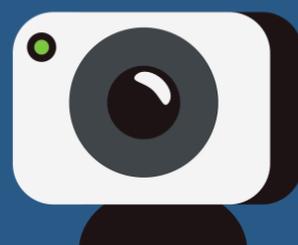
STRATEGIES AND TOOLS TO GAUGE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

STAFF

... highlighted the importance of students "joining in activities which require input".

...and students valued the benefits webcams have in sharing visual cues (such as body language) of engagement and understanding.

...recognized that visual cues alone do not fully show engagement or learning.

"I think, in some ways, students have a wider range of ways to participate." - Staff member

WAYS TO ENGAGE

- Making notes
- Filling in polls
- Asking and answering questions
- Sharing work
- Participating in activities
- Reading and responding to comments in the chatbox
- Using webinar tools
- Post-session independent learning

Different webinar tools permit different types of communication and engagement

1. Chatbox - benefits peer learning

2. Polls - adds flexibility to a session

3. Emojis - quickly engage student understanding

EXTERNAL TOOLS

- Padlet
- Google Jamboard
- Mentimeter
- Turning Point
- Kahoot
- Vevox
- Google Docs
- Microsoft office
- Piazza
- Google Forms

These findings suggest that:

It is important to design a range of opportunities for students to show their engagement and understanding – not only rely on one method.

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