

CONTACT

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CONTEXT

First year as a PAT. Wanted guidance, Uni training cancelled as should be at School level. Chatted with NBS lead about ideas. Tutees are 1st years, bombarded with info in early days. Hard to remember, so used NILE as one-stop shop to disseminate info/signpost students. Announcements as a guide for further detail. Meet all students at least twice - start of year (settle in) and Easter (plan for next year).

INTENDED OUTCOMES

Using NILE as a one-stop shop for students to find out what is going on outside of their timetabled schedule. Opportunity for students to share this easily and permanently. Preferable to clogging up module sites and lecture time with 'extraneous' information.

THE PROCESS

The first thing was a call for help to the LearnTech team. Once Rachel set up the NILE site I developed the categories to group relevant information more around what the students would be looking for. Post information as content items into the relevant categories and then sending concise emails to signpost to other details.

Would like to see other PATs using this with me! Initially wanted it managed centrally but found that until people see the value in it they won't give resources to it. Needed proof of concept first to encourage future buy-in.

THE BENEFITS & CHALLENGES

Benefits: allowed me to make sure all emailed information was reaching students; student feedback liked one-stop shop and reduction of information overload. Ability to prioritise between academic and non-academic information.

Challenges: Not really! Only 20 student this year. Biggest challenge will be how to take this forward and make it a valuable tool on a broader scale. Questions of ownership!

KEY POINTS

Easy to do and easy to manage. Positive way of getting information to students in an orderly manner rather than just bombarding them and clogging up their inboxes! Still a place for verbally communicating information, particularly programme related issues but this is a nice counter-balance to overloading and transmission of non-academic related events and school level activities.



"Using the NILE community function is a great way to make sure I get relevant information to tutees."