Magic with Moodle

Using the Moodle Forums

Matthew Hope

iWHO, eLearning Support Officer
Background

• Elearning distance course part-time (2 years)
• Students are occupational health professionals
• 2 separate course areas on Moodle (Year1 & Year2)
• Duplicating resources
• Posting course announcements x2
• Fewer opportunities for networking!!
Background

Forums used for

• Communication
  – keeping students informed vs. email overload

• Foster an online community:
  – sharing professional experience
  – peer support & mentoring
Challenge: Display separate course news to each group

Background: eLearning course, part-time, shared course area (2 Moodle groups)
What we did

• Signpost forums clearly, descriptions
• Tell students what they are for
• Forced subscription vs. Auto subscription
• Digest emails vs. individual emails
• Forum tracking (number of unread posts displayed)
• Sent different announcements to different groups
### News Forum with groups (Admin view)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discussion</th>
<th>Started by</th>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Replies</th>
<th>Unread</th>
<th>Last post</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Managing Cultural Diversity &amp; H&amp;S</td>
<td>Amanda Griffiths</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Amanda Griffiths&lt;br&gt;Thu, 30 May 2013, 05:43 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial Recording (22/05/2013)</td>
<td>Jonathan Houdmont</td>
<td>[Group Image]</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Jonathan Houdmont&lt;br&gt;Wed, 22 May 2013, 07:48 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holiday dates</td>
<td>Jonathan Houdmont</td>
<td>[Group Image]</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>Jonathan Houdmont&lt;br&gt;Tue, 21 May 2013, 04:41 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial PPT (22/05/2013)</td>
<td>Jonathan Houdmont</td>
<td>[Group Image]</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Jonathan Houdmont&lt;br&gt;Tue, 21 May 2013, 04:39 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holiday dates and deadlines</td>
<td>Jonathan Houdmont</td>
<td>[Group Image]</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Jonathan Houdmont&lt;br&gt;Mon, 20 May 2013, 01:03 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promote your professional profile on LinkedIn</td>
<td>Matthew Hope</td>
<td>[Profile Image]</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Matthew Hope&lt;br&gt;Fri, 17 May 2013, 04:23 PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Link to course area](#)
News, specific to each group, is displayed in the latest News Block.
How it worked with students

• Really important to tell them clearly what the forums are for (add a description)
  – E.g., they can’t reply to News / Announcements forum

• Students said they wanted important emails immediately so Matthew advised them how to change their profile settings to Individual emails

• Students appreciated forum tracking – so new posts are highlighted as soon as they go into the module (again need to set in module AND they need to set in profile)

7/4/2013
Fostering online community

- Introductions and icebreakers
- Lecturer scaffolding
- Bringing in humour / encouraging discussion
- Encouraged to build your Moodle profile

The 'Play Office': The Answer To Our Prayers?
by Jonathan Houdmont - Wednesday, 10 April 2013, 02:02 PM

The BBC News website is today reporting on a new occupational health intervention: The Play Office. Repieta with swings and a helter skelter, is this the way to stimulate health and wellbeing? Discuss!!!

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-hampshire-22089159

Jonathan

Hi, just watched that video 'The Play Office'.....I loved it, thought it was a great idea to boost energy and offer a getaway from your desk. Also I thought what a great way of promoting not only wellbeing in workers but a sense of being valued and trusted to balance work with 'play breaks' - a huge investment from the company!!
Is it working: Yes/No? Number of views?
Further information

How to achieve this

• Moodle Help – Forums
  https://workspace.nottingham.ac.uk/display/Moodlehelp/Forums

• Moodle Bytes webinar recording: Moodle forums on the MSc Health and Wellbeing
  https://uni-of-nottingham.adobeconnect.com/p4c0c1kfeb2/

• Elearning community video (forthcoming)

• Matthew will answer any questions
  Matthew.Hope@Nottingham.ac.uk
Thank you for listening

Learning Team Support

learning-team-support@nottingham.ac.uk


Moodle Help: bit.ly/uonmoodleshelp

(or search Workspace for “Moodle help”)