

ACTIVATE LEARNING

Activate Learning Delivers on Digital Vision With Canvas

LEVEL:
Further Education

INITIATIVE: Powering a consistent
digital learning experience

CHALLENGE

Activate Learning is a forward-thinking education group formed of schools, colleges and training companies, united by the shared mission to transform lives through learning. With a progressive approach to pedagogy, Activate Learning empowers people to go further in learning and in life, by recognising their uniqueness and by providing an environment that builds confidence and raises aspirations. Activate Learning works with students, experts in learning and business leaders to co-create curricula and build industry-relevant career pathways.

The Activate Learning group was launched in 2013, and has grown quickly. It's expanded from a single college to a group comprising secondary, further and higher education, apprenticeship and workforce training, consultancy and commercial and social enterprise, with an international reach.

Emma Faulder, Group Director of Digital Education and IT Services at Activate Learning, says, "When it came to technology, our staff fell into two camps. Some were using Moodle, some were using Google, and as such, our systems were fragmented and not easy to navigate. Instead, we needed a comprehensive but flexible virtual learning environment to deliver consistency and structure."

KEY FINDINGS:

- Canvas replaces fragmented technology products
- Canvas delivers consistency and structure to a diverse course portfolio
- Canvas helps empower students to develop independent learning skills

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—EMMA FAULDER

Group Director of Digital Education and IT Services at Activate Learning

THE DECISION

“We wanted to ramp up the pace and volume of digital learning and make resources more readily available for students and staff,” continued Emma. “Structure is really important in order to enhance learning, so my first port of call when I joined Activate Learning in 2015 was to make the learning environment more consistent, improving quality and credibility as a result. We knew a new VLE would help others recognise our commitment to digital education.”

After a competitive pitch process, Activate Learning chose Canvas. Emma was impressed by the user-friendly design of the VLE and its flexibility, saying, “Canvas leads the way in digital learning. We feel aligned with Canvas’ vision, its ability to look to the future and its commitment to enhancing the learning experience. Simply, that’s what Activate Learning does, too.”

The procurement process saw Activate Learning test Canvas with staff and students, taking feedback from other Canvas users and seeking market advice. It was a long process of testing and evaluation, and it ensured that Activate Learning had picked a solution that would meet its ambitious future growth plans, as well as provide a comprehensive VLE for its objectives today.

THE RESULTS

Emma tells us, “Since bringing it in, Canvas has presented great opportunities to digitally upskill staff, work on revised curriculum design strategies and offer a rich 21st century learning experience. We’ve all really bought into tech to enhance the learning experience rather than tech for the sake of it, and Canvas fits seamlessly with our modernising strategy of delivering course materials remotely but consistently.”

In the classroom, Canvas has helped give learners more control and ownership of their studies. Emma continues, “What we’re doing is preparing people for working life—and giving them ownership of how, where and when they study helps contribute to their skills as independent learners. It’s perhaps no surprise that this has been enthusiastically embraced by teachers and students.”

Emma concludes, “Very simply, Canvas has helped us lead the way in digital learning, dealing with our audiences’ expectations and delivering on quality of learning.”