

# HULL COLLEGE

Driving a Progressive Digital Learning Environment at Hull College

**LEVEL:**  
Further education

**INITIATIVE:**  
Powering institutional change

## THE CHALLENGE

Until 2018, Hull College had been a long-term Moodle user. Moodle had been implemented successfully as resource bank to store and access teaching materials. Linked to the college's library system, the tool allowed tutors and lecturers to form a central content repository which made course information easily accessible.

But Moodle had never been "pressure tested." "It wasn't asked to do very much," said Graham Raddings, Executive Director of Marketing and Innovation from Hull College Group. "And as our pedagogical objectives shifted, we needed a solution that would offer more support, expand and grow with us, and wouldn't potentially buckle under pressure."

In 2017, Hull College Group underwent significant structural changes. With a new management team, an overhauled curriculum offering and the commitment to rehaul its infrastructure, Hull College embarked on a mission to develop a modernised curriculum to better cater to a diverse student base and to deliver a blended approach to course delivery.



## KEY FINDINGS:

- Canvas marked the move from a content repository to a fully integrated VLE
- Canvas helps power a modernisation drive to meet the needs of digitally savvy, diverse student base

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—GRAHAM RADDINGS

*Executive Director of Marketing and Innovation from Hull College Group*

## THE DECISION

“It’s no exaggeration to say that the VLE would be one of the key components of our drive for modernisation,” continued Graham, “And, as such, the college undertook a robust review of all curriculum, seeking the VLE that best supported the new strategy.”

The college’s decision was also informed by recommendations from other institutions. “Hull University is right on our doorstep, and together with information from other local institutions, we were able to select a VLE that had a proven track record in driving pedagogical change.”

Canvas was selected as it delivered a flexible and intuitive solution that would be easy to use and quick to implement. “Consistency was also key,” says Graham. “Moodle had become a bit sprawling, and we needed a more consistent framework which would help drive institution-wide change. Canvas offered this in spades.”

The ability to work with applications and plugins is also supporting Hull College Group as it moves from a more static IT infrastructure to an environment which encourages BYOD, mobile working and a more flexible approach to the systems and products used in the classroom and beyond.

## THE RESULTS

Implementation has been quick, and the response to Canvas has been positive. Graham reports that, in ensuring adoption, he’s had a myth-busting exercise to complete. “Of course, there have been some fears from staff—most prominently that content developed in Moodle wouldn’t be compatible with Canvas. We can quickly show teachers that this isn’t the case, and that the move to Canvas is quick and seamless, without any content being lost.”

The reporting in Canvas has been important too. Staff using Canvas can immediately measure a student’s achievement on any piece of work, look at which aspects of teaching and learning worked and which didn’t and adapt their instruction accordingly.

Its rich content editor makes it easy for tutors to create content, quizzes, discussions and more—significantly enhancing the learning experience. Staff can also provide formative and summative assessment and live rich feedback (including video) via the Canvas SpeedGrader tool, while inviting students to respond and collaborate with them.

And perhaps most importantly, Canvas offers extensive support, meaning that teachers can concentrate on getting the most out of the pedagogical benefits it offers, rather than needing to focus on tech support.

Graham concludes, “Our journey with Canvas is just beginning, but we’re already seeing the benefits, as it helps us move towards modern, blended learning, which meets the needs and ambitions of a diverse, digital student and a modern curriculum.”