Example 5

Using e-learning to facilitate enquiry learning in PSHE subjects

Enquiry learning is one of the core approaches in the study of various PSHE subjects. In issue-based enquiries, it involves interactive discussions between teachers and students during and after lessons, group discussions among students, presentations of discussion results, and comments on students' work by their teachers and peers.

A DSS secondary school in Tin Shui Wai adopts a learning management system (LMS), 'Schoology', which is commonly used by local schools, to establish an interactive learning platform for enhancing the enquiry learning of independent PSHE subjects at the junior secondary level. A common lesson design framework is also been designed to incorporate e-learning into different PSHE subjects.

Application of an LMS in the learning and teaching of PSHE subjects

- Before the lesson: Flipped Classroom

    - Videos and notes are uploaded to the LMS for students to learn basic knowledge and facts before attending the lesson.

    - Students have to complete a short online quiz to assess their understanding of the basic knowledge and the facts.

    - Based on the results of the online assessment, which are instantly sent to the teacher's mailbox, the teacher can quickly adjust the lesson plan before the start of the lesson.

- During the lesson

    - Students use mobile devices to conduct data and information searches, group discussions and presentations. Ideas, views and discussion results are uploaded automatically onto the LMS for sharing among group members. The final products of each group, which can be presented in diversified forms such as written reports, graphics, diagrams and video clips are uploaded automatically onto the LMS for sharing. The teacher and students can give immediate feedback on the work of each group for instant refinement before final submission as a piece of classwork.

- Short online quizzes pop up on students' mobile device to evaluate their learning progress. If necessary, the teacher can then make use of the immediate summarised results of the quizzes to instantly adjust the design of the remaining parts of the lesson, the pedagogical strategies and the assignments for consolidation according to students' performance.

- After the lesson
  - Students can download assignments from the LMS platform, complete the work on their mobile devices, and submit the work to the teacher's mailbox. Students can also ask questions and receive feedback while working on their assignments through an online discussion forum.
  - The teacher marks and comments on students' work and then returns it to them via the LMS platform. The teacher instantly receives an analytical report of students' performance on the assignment to obtain a better understanding of the learning progress of individual students.
  - The teacher can also provide timely support (e.g. additional resources) through the LMS platform to students who have difficulty completing the assignment before the next school day.

From the above example, the use of an LMS allows the construction of an interactive discussion and sharing platform that can greatly facilitate the aforementioned learning activities because the use of an LMS, allows individual students and groups to receive instant information and feedback from their teachers and classmates. It also allows individual students and groups to receive different sets of learning materials and assessment items tailored to their individual abilities. During the learning process, the use of an LMS further achieves the effect of assessment for learning and assessment of learning.

The use of e-learning resources, such as an LMS, in PSHE subjects can thus enhance learning and teaching effectiveness, cater for the needs of different students, and help promote students' self-directed learning abilities.

If you are interested in e-learning, read also Example 4.