Research has shown that the effective use of learning technologies increases student learning and engagement

‘Learning Bytes’ comprises a series of informal sessions, each focussing on a specific pedagogic need which can be addressed by the use of one or more learning technologies. To provide a broad perspective the sessions are facilitated by a range of staff: academic, technical, learning technology advisors and staff development. The sessions are documented to provide information for anyone unable to attend.

**Learning technologies**

**Benefits**
- Improved quality and efficiency
- Flexibility in course offerings
- Collaborative opportunities
- Democracy of participation
- Peer-learning affordances
- Discussion beyond class time
- Aids reflective practice
- Develop students’ lifelong learning skills
- Develop students’ transferable and employability skills
- Supports student in the development of a personal learning network

**Challenges**
- Staff engagement
- Fear of technological reliability
- Technical skills
- Institutional policies and procedures geared towards face-to-face teaching
- Fear of taking risks
- Student expectations
- Culture shift

**Support**
- Your School’s Learning Technology Advisor
- CLS Learning Technology Team
- The Teaching and Learning Institute
- Staff Development Unit

**http://ipark.hud.ac.uk**

Adapting student-centred approaches to the online environment has required the development of new skills and changes to teaching practices.

Bennett and Lockyer (2004)

Changing the way thousands of teachers teach, learners learn, innovation is promoted and sustainable change in traditional institutions is achieved across hundreds of different disciplines is a demanding endeavour that will not be achieved by learning technologies alone. It involves art, craft and science as well as technology.

Salmon (2005)

The latest generation of undergraduates already live in a Web 2.0 world. They have new service expectations and are increasingly dissatisfied with teacher-centred pedagogies. To attract and retain these students, universities will need to rethink their operations.

Barnes and Tynan (2007)

The Internet, social networks, collaborative online tools that allow people to work together more easily and open access to content are both the cause of change for universities, and a tool with which they can respond.

Bennett and Lockyer (2004)