

CASE STUDY



Renovation project:
embedding literacy,
numeracy and
enterprise skills.

Sector area:
Construction



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1: CONTACT DETAILS

Name: Caroline Morley

Role: Learning Coach

Industry/sector area: Construction

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2: WHAT DID YOU SET OUT TO DEVELOP AND WHY?

We wanted to develop a cross-cutting construction project that would support Level 1 students working in different trade areas to develop their thinking and enterprise skills. In addition we wanted to provide stretch and challenge to those students who already had their English and Maths GCSEs, and who therefore did not need to attend functional skills/GCSE sessions, but who would benefit from the opportunity to embed and develop those skills further.

The aim was to create an online project that would:

- support both independent and collaborative learning;
- enable students to gain a broader understanding of the construction industry including building regulations, budgets and costings, and health and safety;
- improve their employability skills.

3: THE PROCESS – WHAT DID YOU ACTUALLY DO?

The television programme ‘Homes under the hammer’ provided inspiration for a renovations project that would enable students to understand the process of purchasing, planning, designing and modernising a property in order to make a return on investment.

A local auctions site was scanned and a property identified that could act as the ‘virtual’ home to be renovated. The estate agents concerned were contacted and the purpose for

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our project was explained. They liaised with the vendors who agreed that we could go in and film the interior of the home for our students to use as a basis for their renovation plans.

I had attended a community of practice session at the college which included an introduction to padlet and realised that this would be a useful tool to use to house the video, the project documents and additional resources. I created a padlet wall (see below) which students could access independently on their own devices and via the learning resource centre.

ALL PROJECTS ARE TO BE SUBMITTED BY 24th MARCH

IF YOUR PROJECT IS CHOSEN YOU WILL PRESENT WEEK COMMENCING 25th APRIL

Email for queries and questions & submitting work
ATEProject@procat.ac.uk

Aims, Core Requirements & Starting Plan

Advanced Thinking & Enterprise Skills
Homes Under The Hammer
House 1

Advanced Thinking & Enterprise Skills
Homes Under The Hammer
House 2

Advanced Thinking & Enterprise Skills
Homes Under The Hammer
House 3

Advanced Thinking & Enterprise Skills
Diary Sheet

Advanced Thinking & Enterprise Skills
Powerpoint presentation
Advanced Thinking & Enterprise Property

Video of Property
Walkthrough of the property

Working out Measurements of Rooms
Use this to work out the size of the rooms in metres

Useful Website
Planning Portal

Planning Portal

4: WHAT DIFFERENCE HAS THIS MADE?

The project was trialled with 25 Level 1 construction learners. The majority engaged with the process and were motivated by the choices they could make concerning what they would focus on as part of the renovation. For example one student was really interested in

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developing his ability to produce floorplans and was able to visit the Basildon Campus to use computer-aided design (CAD) to enhance his initial ideas.

The process supported collaboration and the exchange of ideas as well as highlighting for individuals how their trade (e.g. plumbing, carpentry, bricklaying, painting and decorating) fits within the wider context of the construction industry.

5: LESSONS LEARNT

As a concept this project is easy to replicate and develop further, which is what we will be doing next year. We have learnt that:

- the purpose of such projects needs to be reinforced to students who do not always understand the subset of skills that are required to complement the trade they are studying. You need to explain and 'sell' this to them;
- it would be helpful to make completion of the project as an essential part of the qualification that the Level 1 construction learners are taking. It should feature in the induction process and in their student agreement so that it becomes embedded in their programme of study;
- a commitment is needed from tutors to draw the learning from the renovation project back into the specific trade area that is being studied to reinforce the significance of the wider employability skills that are being developed;
- support from managers is required to resource the time needed to guide, motivate and monitor students through online, project-based learning. In addition managers are essential to promoting the value of such work and could provide further motivation by funding prizes for individuals and teams who come up with, for example, the most innovative and cost-effective ideas.

6: RESOURCES

The link to the renovations padlet that houses the virtual home and supporting resources can be found here:



http://padlet.com/caroline_morley/1z5q4rn2e7oo

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