

Achievement for All - The BETT2012 Workshops

by Tony Parkin

In a new move at this year's BETT Show, Gallery Room One was given over to a series of MirandaMods, exploring how new technologies could be used to enhance the learning for a wide range of students, but particularly for those that are vulnerable, or who are at risk. These multimedia workshops were part of the extended free CPD offering at BETT 2012, and were delivered by the MirandaNet Fellowship and student teachers from the University of Bedfordshire.

The workshops were designed around the MirandaMod concept used widely at meetings of MirandaNet (www.mirandamod.ac.uk/mirandamods). A MirandaMod is an unconference where a key feature is that all participants should have a chance to offer their point of view. The aim is that teachers, many of whom are experts in the field, will have an opportunity to share and build new knowledge to enhance their own experience. Invited 'speakers' set the scene for the session, and then other participants are invited to offer a 3-5 minute talk of main headlines from their own perspective. Some participants may have prepared something beforehand, whilst others may contribute a spur of the moment insight from their own practice.

All those at the session had been encouraged to bring along an internet-enabled device for use during the session. The MirandaMod team were using twitter with a specific hashtag (#MMAFA MirandaMod and Achievement for All) building up a collection of ideas and resources for use both during the workshop and by those following the tweetstream online. These would also form the basis for a post-BETT online resource collection. Through the sessions a Mindmap for each topic was also created in real-time by the students from the University of Bedfordshire, and a live videostream operated by Leon Cych (@eyebeams).

Outlines of the sessions:

<http://www.mirandanet.ac.uk/bett/>

The resources from the sessions all live in the MirandaNet MirandaMod section:

<http://www.mirandanet.ac.uk/mirandamods/mirandamods-at-bett/bett12/>

Theo Kuechel has also building resources in the wiki:

<http://mirandamod.wikispaces.com/MirandaMods+BETT12>