

# **LCB Digital & AI Strategy – 2024-2028**

## **Introduction**

Developing a comprehensive digital and AI strategy for Leeds College of Building (LCB) involves aligning with national education standards, integrating technology to enhance learning, and preparing students for the future workforce. Establishing and accepting the starting points of staff to develop bespoke training that suits the needs of everyone to allow them to benefit from all digital and AI platforms.

LCB has many digital platforms including Collsys, ProMonitor, Strata, Century, CPOM's, Purlos and eSignUp and all staff need the knowledge and confidence to use them effectively.

## **Digital & AI Strategy for Leeds College of Building**

### **Vision Statement**

To become a leading institution in digital construction education, fostering innovation and equipping staff and students with the digital skills needed to undertake work related activity now and in the future.

### **Strategy mission:**

- Enhance learning experiences through digital technologies.
- Improve operational efficiency in all areas with AI-driven processes.
- Foster digital literacy and skills among students and staff.
- Promote inclusive and accessible education.

**To achieve our mission, we will focus on the following:**

### **Digital Infrastructure**

#### **Current Assessment:**

- Conduct an audit of existing digital infrastructure.
- Identify gaps in hardware, software, and network capabilities.

#### **Enhancements:**

- Upgrade internet bandwidth and network security.
- Ensure all classrooms are equipped with smartboards, high-speed internet, and digital devices.
- Implement a robust Learning Management System (LMS) such as Moodle.
- Implement two immersive classrooms, one at each campus.

### **Digital Learning Environment**

#### **Blended Learning:**

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- Develop a blended learning model linking to our curriculum combining in-person and online instruction.
- Create digital content and resources for courses (e.g., video lectures, interactive simulations).

### **Virtual Learning Environment (VLE):**

- Enhance the VLE with features like discussion forums, immersive classrooms, VR headsets and AI tutors.
- Provide training for staff so they have the knowledge and confidence to effectively use VLE tools.

### **AI Integration**

#### **Administrative AI:**

- Implement AI for administrative tasks like scheduling, admissions, minutes of meetings and student support.
- Use chatbots for 24/7 student enquiries and support.
- Reduce workloads of administrative staff through effective use of AI.

#### **Educational AI:**

- Integrate AI-driven personalised learning platforms to tailor education to individual student needs.
- Use employer feedback to inform which digital & AI platforms students should be using.
- Utilise AI for formative assessments to provide real-time feedback.
- Use AI to plan learning offering differentiation based on students starting points.
- Use AI and assistive technology for students with SEND to reduce barriers to learning.

### **Staff Training and Development**

#### **Professional Development:**

- Establish starting points of all staff but make it relevant to their role. Link staff skills to existing systems within LCB.
- Offer continuous professional development programs focusing on digital skills and AI literacy.
- Encourage staff to gain certifications in digital education tools and AI applications.
- Encourage staff to share best practice when they are using digital & AI

#### **Support System:**

- Form a Digital & AI Committee which represents the whole College.
- Establish a support team for digital and AI tools, including IT experts and instructional designers.

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- Create a peer mentorship program for sharing best practices and innovative teaching methods.
- Develop digital and AI champions who represent all areas of the college.
- Monitor the use and effectiveness through Professional Growth Observations (PGO's) and Curriculum Review activity.

### **Student Engagement and Support**

#### **Digital Literacy:**

- Embed digital literacy into the curriculum across all subjects where appropriate and in line with current industry requirements.
- Offer workshops and extracurricular activities focused on emerging technologies like AI, robotics, and VR activities.
- Give students a broader understanding of how AI fits into the workplace and educate them on data protection and cyber security risks.

#### **Career Readiness:**

- Work with employers to ensure students are learning relevant digital and AI skills which are current and used within the workplace.
- Organise guest lectures and employer talks to fully prepare students for work related opportunities and to equip them with the necessary digital and AI skills required in the modern workforce.

### **Data Security and Privacy**

#### **Compliance:**

- Ensure compliance with GDPR and other relevant data protection laws.
- Implement robust cybersecurity measures to protect student and staff data.
- Only agreed AI platforms to be used. New suggestions to be rigorously checked and agreed by the committee.

#### **Training:**

- Provide regular training on data security best practices for students and staff.
- Ensure through relevant LCB policies that AI platforms are data compliant, and staff and students are fully aware of these.

### **Partnerships and Collaboration**

#### **Industry Collaboration:**

- Collaborate with tech companies and AI startups to stay updated on industry trends and innovations.
- Establish advisory boards with industry experts to guide curriculum development.

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### **Educational Partnerships:**

- Partner with universities and other FE colleges for resource sharing and joint initiatives.
- Engage in national and international digital education forums and networks.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

#### **What success looks like.**

- Clearly identify starting points of all staff.
- Set incremental targets against actions.
- Track digital engagement metrics, student satisfaction, and learning outcomes.
- Close achievement gaps for students with SEND by using AI and assistive technology.
- Monitor the effectiveness of AI tools in improving administrative efficiency and educational outcomes.

Termly reporting of progress against targets set out in the Digital & AI Committee Action Plan to Governors and SLT.

### **Continuous Improvement:**

- Establish a feedback loop with students and staff to continuously improve digital and AI strategies.
- Regularly review and update the digital and AI strategy to align with evolving technologies and educational needs.
- Continually review college infrastructure and update as necessary.

### **Potential Barriers to successfully delivering the vision and objectives:**

- Low starting points of staff who could struggle to embrace digital skills and AI.
- The content of the training for staff is unknown and could take a long time to prepare and deliver.
- Digital infrastructure not being adequate across all campuses. E.G. quality of IT equipment, WIFI strength.
- Having a lack of technical experts in Digital & AI through a lack of availability and high salaries they command in industry.
- Not keeping pace with changes to Digital & AI platforms resulting in not being current or relevant.
- Lack of industry engagement to keep LCB aware of current practice.

### **Implementation Roadmap**

#### **Phase 1: Foundation (Months 1-6)**

- Develop a committee and establish roles within.
- Conduct infrastructure audit and upgrades and link to the budget and annual operational plan.

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- Establish starting points of all staff and identify gaps in knowledge and any training needs. Individual starting points based on job role and systems used.
- Implement basic AI tools for administrative tasks and lesson preparation.
- Join working groups to help share best practice within FE and other colleges.

### **Phase 2: Development (Months 7-18)**

- Deliver training for staff.
- Develop blended learning and digital content.
- Enhance VLE with advanced features.
- Introduce digital literacy programs for students.
- Create 2 immersive classrooms.
- Establish digital and AI champions.

### **Phase 3: Expansion (Months 19-36)**

- Scale up AI integration in educational processes.
- Strengthen industry and educational partnerships.
- Continuously evaluate and refine the strategy.

By following this comprehensive strategy, LCB will not only improve its digital and AI capabilities but also create a future-ready environment for students and staff.

By aligning our Digital & AI strategy with the core values of fairness, ownership, collaboration, understanding, standards, equity, and delivery, we will create a culture of excellence, innovation, and continuous improvement at Leeds College of Building, enabling us to fulfil our mission and achieve our vision.

“to provide the best construction and built environment education in England”