

## **Digital Innovation Strategy (final draft)**

### **We will:**

- Use artificial intelligence to: improve students' skills in using AI in life and work; improve the impact & efficiency of teaching & learning; improve our College's operational effectiveness.
- Equip students with the basic, academic and vocation-specific digital skills they need to be successful in their next steps.
- Improve our use of digital technology to streamline/enhance our work.
- Equip our staff with the skills to deliver this strategy.
- Ensure that organisational decisions are targeted to support the delivery of this strategy.

## **Digital Innovation Strategy: Delivery Plan**

**Use artificial intelligence to: improve students' skills in using AI in life and work; improve the impact & efficiency of teaching & learning: improve our College's operational effectiveness.**

To do this, we will:

- Develop an AI policy and guidance for AI use by staff and students at Northampton College
- Evaluate our staff to understand current skills levels, usage and impact of AI tools in our College.
- Welcome (with appropriate safeguards) the use of AI in our College based on sector expertise and best practice to equip:
  - Students to use AI effectively and ethically in life and work.
  - Teachers to use AI to improve effectiveness (eg. planning and feedback) and reduce workload (eg. preparing, delivering and assessing learning).
  - All staff to use AI to improve effectiveness and reduce workload across the whole College.
- Identify local AI Champions and undertake and evaluate pilot projects to identify the most impactful and cost-effective uses of AI across the College and capture best practice in a resource bank.

**Equip students with the basic, academic and vocation-specific digital skills they need to be successful in their next steps.**

To do this, we will:

- Evaluate students' starting points in digital skills so we can further develop each students' skills through tailored teaching and guide them towards further training (eg. adults).
- Equip students with the basic (DigiSkills & digital induction curriculum), academic and sector-specific (embedded into curriculum planning and delivery) digital skills they need to succeed.
- Take an evidence-based approach to using digital technology to enhance students' learning, prioritising AI, AR/VR and immersive learning spaces.
- Review our specialist digital (IT) curriculum to ensure it provides a current offer including specialisms such as cloud, AI, coding, cyber security, AR/VR/eSports, networking etc.

**Improve our use of digital technology to streamline/enhance our work.**

To do this, we will:

- Review and consolidate our digital tools, systems and storage & communication arrangements to secure impact, effectiveness and efficiency.

- Proactively seek opportunities to use software and digital technology to improve student experience, value for money and organisational effectiveness.
- Undertake and evaluate pilot projects on the use of digital solutions to identify the most impactful and cost-effective solutions for our College.
- Ensure we consciously balance the twin focusses of ‘for the curriculum’ and ‘for our staff and organisation’.

### **Equip our staff with the skills to deliver this strategy.**

To do this, we will:

- Evaluate current levels of the basic digital skills of all staff and use this to develop a prioritised plan to improve these to support their job roles (implemented through appraisal objectives and training plans).
- Where beneficial (and this is important!), create a ‘digital-first’ approach to working practices, consciously modelled across the College.
- Where new digital technologies (hardware/software) are introduced, provide specific training to all staff who may benefit (including in industry practices in the use of such tools).
- Dedicate time and resource to train:
  - Using an evidence-based approach, our teachers to use AI; AR/VR; immersive classrooms; and other digital technology to enhance students’ learning.
  - Our staff to effectively use AI and other specific technologies whose use aligns with the College’s agreed priorities including through facilitated sessions.

### **Ensure that organisational decisions are targeted to support the delivery of this strategy.**

To do this, we will:

- Review in-year and periodically our current digital resources (including licenses and equipment) for utilisation, currency, impact and cost-effectiveness.
- Prioritise investment on digital technologies on the priorities set out in this strategy, particularly on those where the impact on students is greatest (direct or indirect).
- Strengthen the planning of digital requirements by developing a three-year investment plan, incorporating digital needs into course planning and using/investing in digital technology sustainably.
- Ensure significant technology investment decisions include an assessment of new technology (SWOT), consideration of training strategies and closely link to the intent of our curriculum.
- Ensure robust security protocols/procedures are in place to protect data and systems.