

Out of the comfort zone: Increasing social presence through gamification

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17 April 2019



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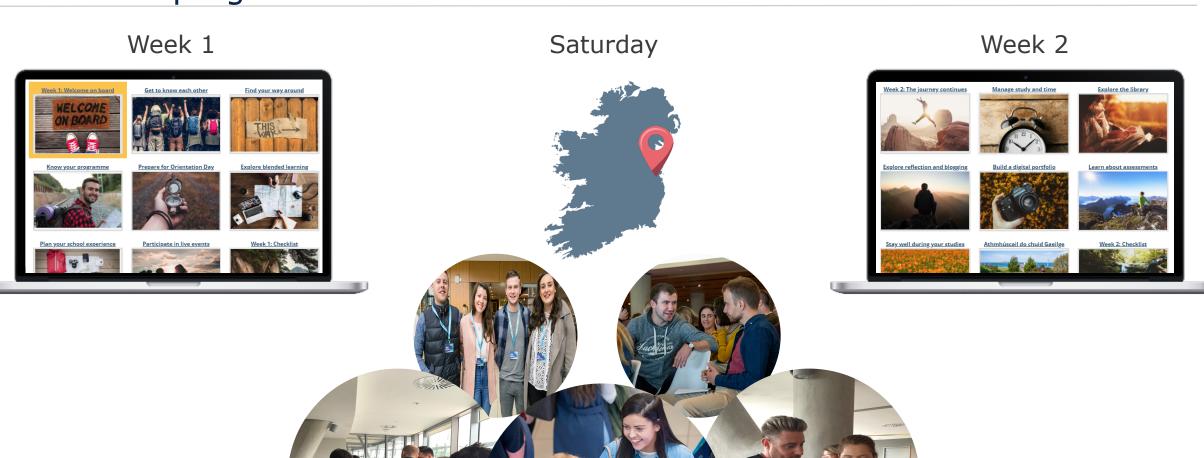
Hibernia College teacher education programmes

Professional Mary
Primary
Education

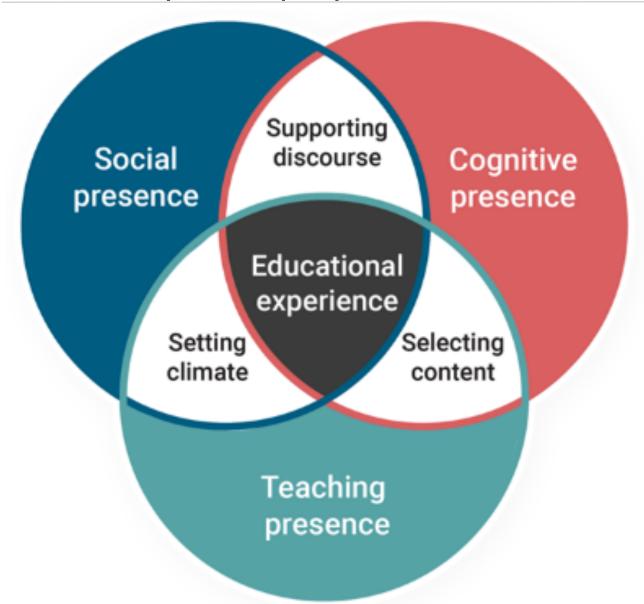
ucatinn(PME) in
45%
POST PRIMARY
EDUCATION



Orientation programme



Community of Inquiry



Communication Medium

Adapted from Garrison, Anderson and Archer (2000)



Game, game-like activities or game elements Brigham (2015)



Connect, Learn & Earn

Connect, Learn & Earn (2 minutes)

A key aspect of Orientation is getting to know your peers so we want to encourage you to connect with each other. In your online orientation, you will earn experience or 'xp' points every time you complete an action that requires you to connect with another learner. When you earn a specific number of xp points, you will go up a level.

Watch the video below for more information and then explore the Connect, Learn & Earn block on the left-hand side of the Orientation page.



The table below displays the xp point value of certain actions in Orientation activities.

Event	Point value
Forum: Viewed	7
Forum: Discussion subscription created	10
Forum: Discussion viewed	15
Forum: Post created	20
Forum: Some content has been posted	20
Page: Viewed (write a blog post)	10
Page: Viewed (comment on a blog post)	10
Choice: Viewed	5
Choice: Choice answer added	30
Glossary: Viewed	5
Glossary: Entry has been created	90
Glossary: Entry has been viewed	20

Level up!



Perused the gamification plugins on the Moodle plugins directory



Chose Level up! because of the variety of features it offered



Blocks: Level up! - Gamification

Maintained by **M** Frédéric Massart

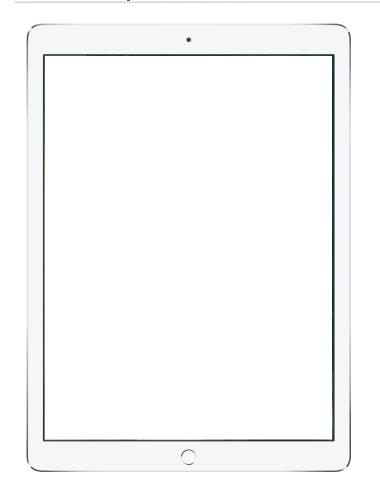
The easiest way to add gamification to your Moodle site! Engage your students! Gamify their learning experience by allowing them to level up in their courses. #gamification #game

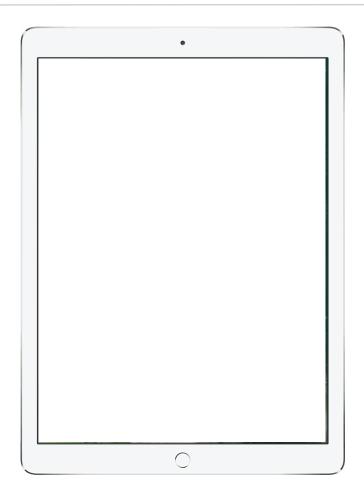


What was involved?

- •Identifying the Moodle events that would award points
- Devising scoring system
- Branding the block

Level up!







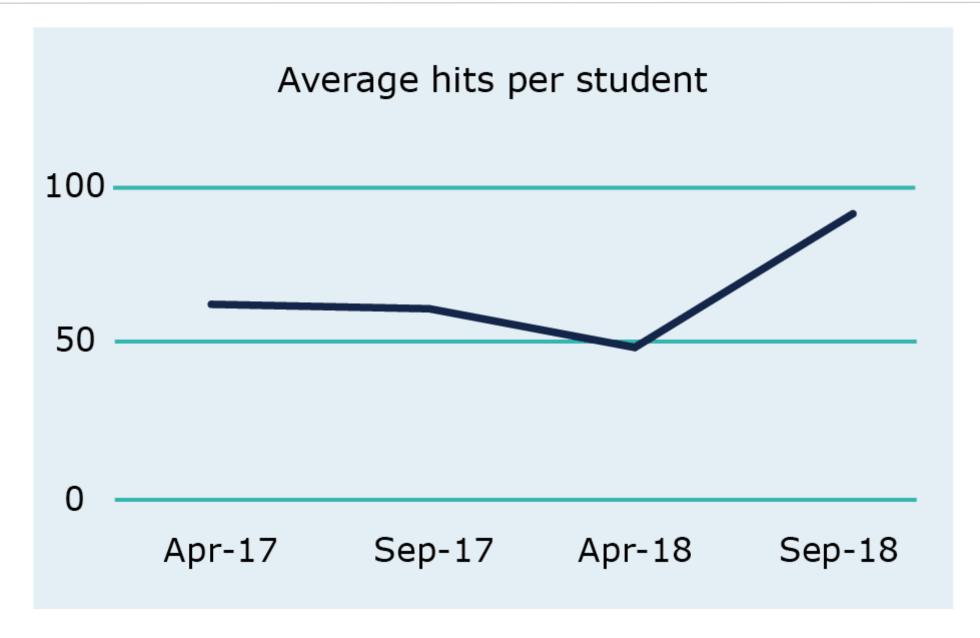


Switched off leaderboard but sent out motivational blurbs



Activated cheat guard

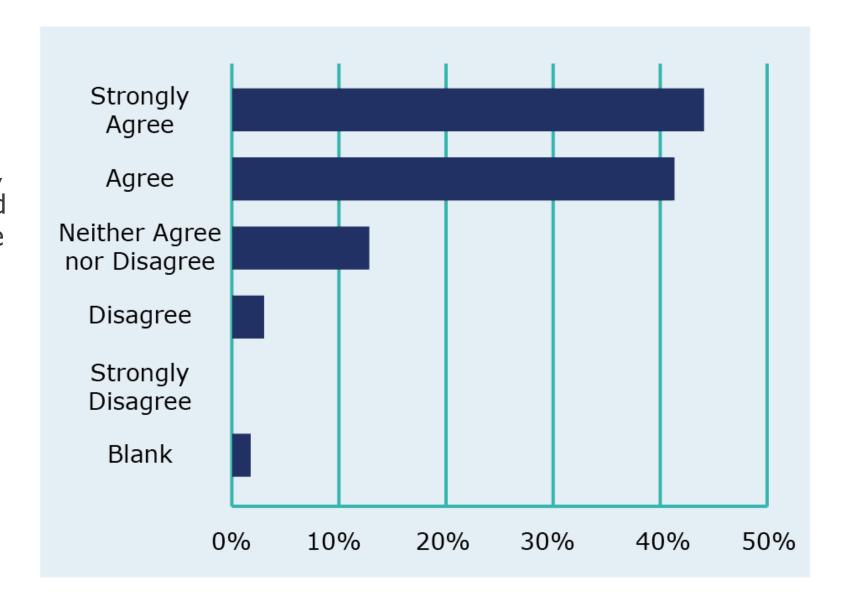
Quantitative data



Qualitative data



The presence of the Connect, Learn & Earn block motivated me to participate more in the online orientation activities that promoted connecting with my peers.



Qualitative data



What are your thoughts on the Connect, Learn & Earn block?

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engagestudents discussions
               motivating great tool effective complete dea block motivating
                 really orientation motivate
              courage liked day work encouraging zone something blog some being to bit well new enjoyed helped comfort to each gave tasks online
                                           me being th
interacting
                 motivates nice fun more things
         interesting going
                felt other met getting about activities
                                     go interaction made
                     usefulencourages while
              points peers otherwise course fellow people progress.
                Way helps see motivated
                                      found forums
                        makes
```

"I found it to be a good motivational tool and as both a shy and mature student I felt it aided me in pushing me out of my comfort zone."

"Very good idea, it encouraged me to communicate with people before the onsite orientation day which I probably would not otherwise have done. This helped me to make friends on the day as I had already communicated with them."



"I think it is a very motivational tool. Seeing the XP points increase gives a sense of achievement and makes me want to do more to see those points increase. It made me interact on discussions and blogs with my fellow students. It is a great motivator to increase interaction!"



"I didn't particularly enjoy it as I felt I was being forced to respond to someone just to earn points or go up a level. I am not one for responding to things or getting involved in a discussion unless I feel I have something important to say."



