# Out of the comfort zone: Increasing social presence through gamification

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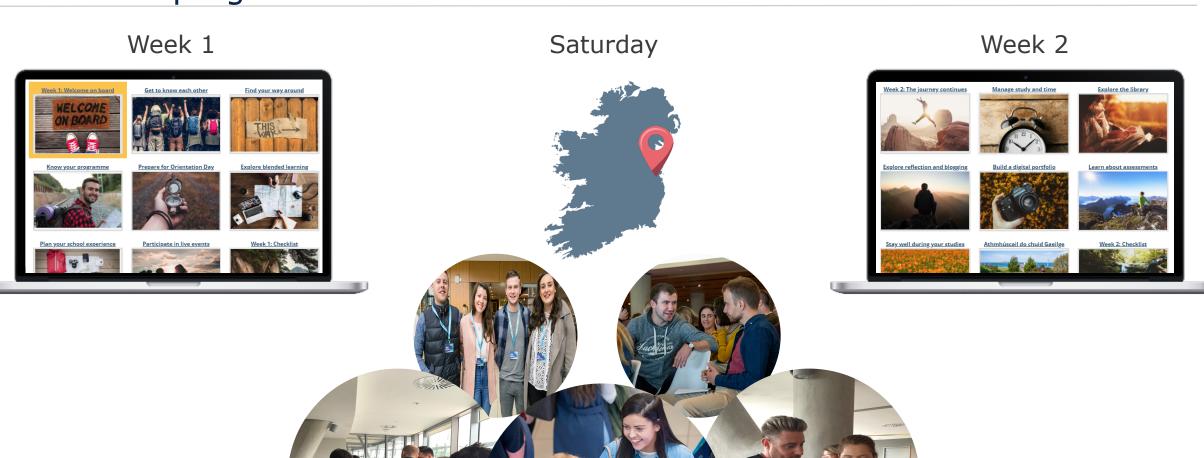17 April 2019

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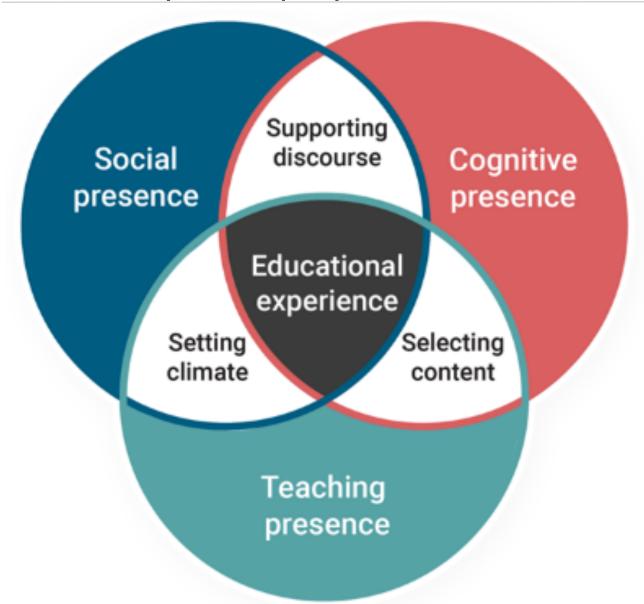
# Orientation programme

Week 1

Saturday

Week 2

# Community of Inquiry



**Communication Medium**

Adapted from Garrison, Anderson and Archer (2000)

"Game, game-like activities or game elements

Brigham (2015)

# Connect, Learn & Earn

# 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
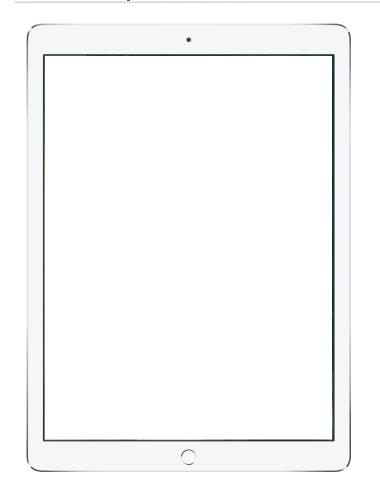
block_xp

Maintained by 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
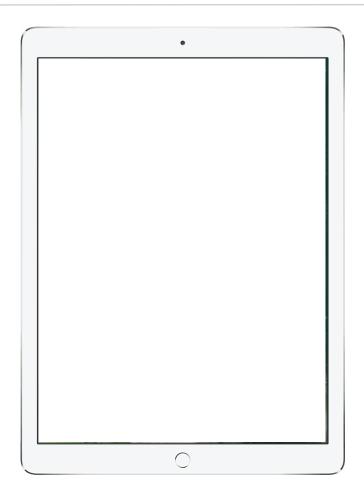
**Q** What was involved?

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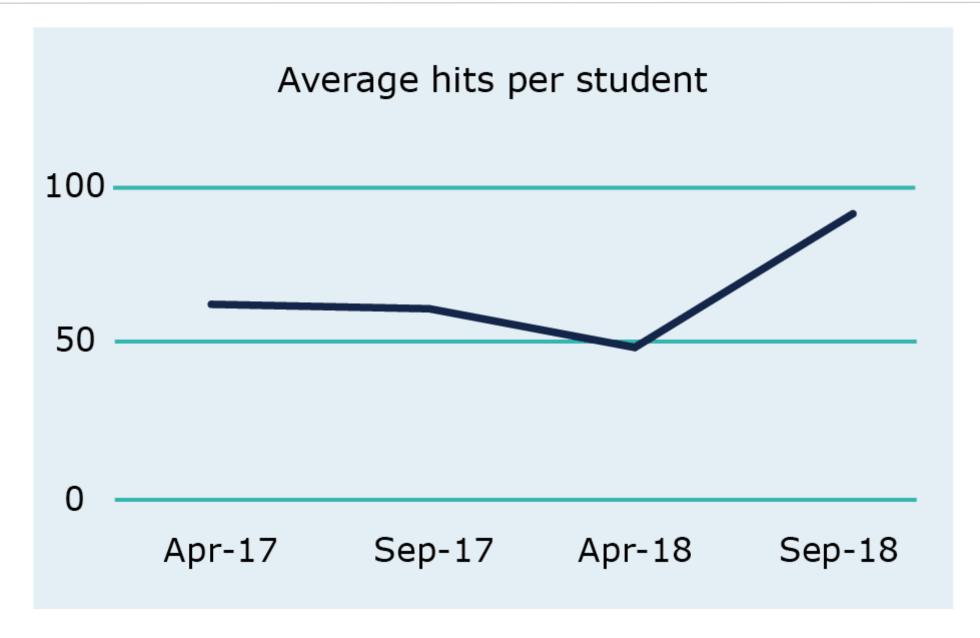- Branding the block

# Level up!

Switched off leaderboard but sent out motivational blurbs

Activated cheat guard

# Quantitative data



Average hits per student

| | Apr-17 | Sep-17 | Apr-18 | Sep-18 |

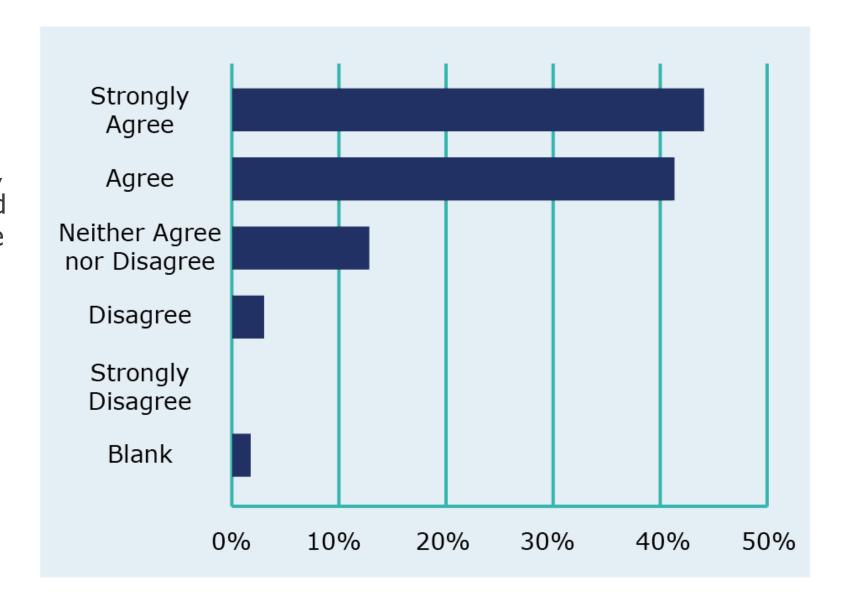# Qualitative data

**Q**

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

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

"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."

Next steps

Questions?