Embrace sector transformation with Jisc’s transformation toolkits

jisc.ac.uk
Where will digital technology take you?

Talk to Jisc about how we can support you on your transformational journey with the support of relevant digital technology.
The ramifications of the depth and breadth of transformation within further education and skills (FES) is far reaching, both geographically across the UK as well as deep within each organisation.

From addressing area reviews in England to increasing apprenticeship provision, from embracing devolution to implementing the Sainsbury1 review, colleges in this current climate have a lot on their plate. It’s survival of the fittest.

Against this backdrop, how can you direct and achieve your organisation’s vision, drive efficiencies and effectiveness whilst not dropping the ball of enhancing the learner experience and their journey through education into employment? What’s more, how can you prioritise time within your organisation to understand the digital technology that can help you get there?

This is where Jisc can help. To make things simple, we’ve developed a suite of three transformation toolkits ie essentials, development, and innovation, to support your college on this journey. The toolkits focus on addressing the relevant needs of your organisation to assist you in this transformational journey, and group together the technology available to meet these needs. This bird’s eye view allows you to see the bigger picture that technology can support, and leaves the intricacies of how the technology can be managed and implemented to the relevant experts within your organisation.

We recognise that every college inherently has different characteristics as well as different objectives and requirements, so appreciate that your college may well already be utilising some of these technology services. By working alongside you in the development of your digital strategy, Jisc can help guide you towards the technology to meet your needs, using the toolkit as a reference point.

For guidance on developing a digital strategy and how the digital toolkits can support you on your journey of transformation:

Contact your dedicated Jisc account manager (jisc.ac.uk/contact/your-account-manager) to discuss your college’s individual needs as relevant.
First and foremost we want to ensure you’ve got the basics covered. That’s why our first toolkit is called **essentials**.

**The essentials toolkit**

Within **essentials** we’ve grouped together products and services that are crucial to meet the basic needs of learners and your college. These services are also reflected in the [fundamental technology services](#) guidance for area review implementation in England, supported by the Department for Education (DfE).

The **essentials toolkit** aims to help you to consider a number of areas to include:

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**Are you making the most of your budget by utilising some digital cost savings options available to you?**

Lower costs, manage spend and improve efficiencies through the economies of scale that come with your Jisc membership. The [Amazon Web Services portal](#) for example, saves you time and money. Via Jisc, you can also benefit from reduced pricing for [Microsoft ExpressRoute](#).

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**Do staff have sufficient digital capabilities to maximise the learner experience?**

Improve your staff’s digital capabilities to enrich teaching and support organisational transformation with our training offer including the [digital leadership course](#) and meet the Prevent agenda via the government-mandated [Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent](#) (WRAP). To support your organisation to develop, you can also utilise our enhanced [consultancy services](#), covering areas such as [strategy review and enhancement](#). Better understand learner behaviour through data and analytics with our [student monitoring](#) resource, which includes learning plans.
Increase the resilience of your network by connecting all your campuses to the Janet network\(^9\) and provide seamless and secure authentication to global WiFi with eduroam\(^{10}\). Have peace of mind with our managed router service\(^{11}\), and be reassured that your ‘ac.uk’ domain name\(^{12}\) remains the prerogative of UK academic institutions, under the rules of allocation controlled by Jisc.

Make use of our vulnerability assessment and information service to detect and manage internal and external vulnerabilities within your IT estate, helping you to manage your security risks. Take advantage of our email advice and testing\(^{13}\) and security blacklists and whitelists\(^{14}\). Jisc also monitors and resolves security incidents on the network as part of the Janet network CSIRT service\(^{15}\) to create a secure environment for you to work online.

Control who accesses your resources, another critical aspect of security. The UK Access Management Federation service\(^{16}\), as part of an identity management toolkit\(^{17}\), is provided by Jisc, giving approved users secure access. You can also obtain expert advice from our subject specialists regarding how to address online safety needs.

Provide ease of access to resources with our library management discovery tools including Copac\(^{18}\), SUNCAT\(^{19}\), Copac Collections Management\(^{20}\) and UK LOCKSS Router\(^{21}\).

Get free and heavily discounted resources through Jisc Collections and digital content such as e-books for FE\(^{22}\) and Digimap\(^{23}\).
Once the **essentials** have been implemented, your organisation can then take advantage of further efficiencies and effectiveness through the implementation of services outlined in the development toolkit.

The development toolkit

Sector transformation presents all colleges with an opportunity to rethink and enhance their proposition to their learners, employers and staff. Therefore the development toolkit builds on the foundation provided by the essentials and aims to elevate a college to new heights. This allows you to redirect your college’s time and financial resources to help focus on the heart of your organisation, your learners.

The development toolkit aims to help you to consider a number of areas to include:

**Is your IT provision maximising the efficiencies afforded through the cloud?**

Be part of our shared data centre\(^2\), use our data archiving framework\(^2\). Take advantage of space in a fully managed data centre that has dual resilient 10Gbit/s connections to the Janet core network as part of our co-location service\(^2\).

**Are you confident you’re offering cost-effective point-to-point connectivity throughout your college?**

Use our routers and switches\(^2\) and telecommunications frameworks\(^2\) – saving you time and money thanks to agreements in place between us and suppliers. Securely and cost effectively provide point-to-point connectivity between sites using netpath\(^2\) as part of the Janet network\(^2\).

**Have you considered the efficient and effective digital communication options available to you that save you time and money?**

Collaborate over video conferencing with Vscene\(^2\), issue blanket messaging with Janet txt\(^2\) and collaborate over Visimeet\(^2\). Use Jisc’s telephony purchasing service\(^2\) to ensure your budget is best spent.

**Could you gain from specialist expertise to help ensure you fully understand the costs of your IT services?**

We offer customers consultancy services, including a Financial X-ray\(^2\) and financial insight review\(^2\), which help IT departments understand and compare the overall costs of key services plus a range of other consultancy support services designed to help you optimise the efficiency and impact of technology in your organisation.
Have your staff fully utilised the support and library resource discovery tools that help them understand the use and value of these?

Allow researchers and teaching staff access to the rich resources within Archives Hub and Zetoc. Support your library by making use of the Journal Usage Statistics Portal (JUSP), which provides a single home for libraries to view, download and analyse their usage reports - essential for evidencing the value of journals. Jisc also offer enhanced consultancy support in the area of digital resources and library services.

Do you provide learners’ with dynamic and interactive digital resources that bring a subject to life?

Support learning with the Hairdressing Training service, use MediaPlus, Historical Texts, the suite of Digimap services and Journal Archives as teaching tools.

Have staff fully explored the digital opportunities available across teaching, learning and assessment?

One of the main areas of transformation is the ability to enhance the delivery of teaching, learning and assessment to meet learners’ increasing digital expectations.

Through Jisc’s team of subject specialists, we can work with your college directly to embrace building the digital capabilities of your staff, share expertise on how to approach blended learning through the curriculum, to include the management of assessment.

To help you keep abreast of current trends and research, you can also access detailed Jisc guidance, reports and insights across various areas such as developing an organisational approach to digital capability and also hear key trends arising from a significant piece of Jisc research with 85 institutions and 27,000 student responses via our digital student tracker. You can also keep up to date with effective digital practice via our evolution of FELTAG report or get involved joining the FE Coalition, join the #FELTAG conversation or hear more about the Beacon Awards communities of practice.
Via the essentials toolkit, you’ve started to lay the technological foundations and your college is now on the road towards embracing further efficiencies via the development toolkit. The work you’ve already done has created the perfect launch-pad for real innovation via the innovation toolkit.

**The innovation toolkit**

The scale of transformation that is being required of FE colleges is unprecedented. Whether your college is responding to area reviews, embracing the opportunities and challenges of devolution or focusing on delivering apprenticeships, you are under pressure as never before.

Jisc is here to provide as much help and support as you need to harness the digital technology available to aid your college’s specific evolution. We can help you develop and achieve a vision for your college, drive efficiencies and emerge as a more resilient, sustainable provider of high quality learning and skills.

The innovation toolkit aims to help you to consider a number of areas to include:

Would impartial expertise help you towards shaping and delivering your college’s digital vision?

As a member of Jisc you always have access to extensive advice and practical support from our account managers and subject specialists. Sometimes you might need specialist input with a critical issue - an organisation-wide strategy or infrastructure review, for example, or a merger. At times like these, ongoing impartial advice from a critical friend and extensive hands-on support could enable you to identify the issues, select solutions and work through the process to an optimal outcome.

Some colleges have also asked for more and want enhanced levels of advice and practical help with specific business-critical issues. So we also have available the option of a competitively priced paid-for consultancy service that’s there if you need it. A key focus is to help you extract maximum benefit from the products, services and money-saving deals that are already available to you as a member of Jisc.

Find out more about our consultancy offer at jisc.ac.uk/consultancy or email consultancy@jisc.ac.uk.

Are staff confident and sufficiently equipped to embrace a digital future?

Building staff digital capabilities will ultimately not only improve the learner experience but also ensure the college gets the best return on investment in its digital environment. As part of Jisc’s building digital capability project, you can access guidance, tools and resources to help you equip staff with the digital skills and confidence that they need now.
Do you feel you have enough insight into your learners’ expectations regarding their preferred method of course delivery and interaction?

Plan improvements to your college’s digital learning and teaching environment with insights gained from the student digital experience tracker, a tool that tracks learners’ changing experiences and expectations of digital technologies. It will help you to prioritise the things that will have the biggest impact.

For senior leadership, Jisc offer a digital leaders programme. This training and support equips senior leaders to lead on the effective implementation of technologies – the results will be an improvement in the learner experience and a good return on your college’s investment in digital technologies.

Do you feel your college has the adequate digital infrastructure to fully support apprentices and distance learners?

If your college is planning to offer more apprenticeships, you will need to make sure that learners and staff who are working at multiple sites or off-campus have reliable access to your services and resources and that you know who is accessing college systems.

Jisc can also support you to expand and transform your apprenticeship provision and deliver more flexible options to meet the needs of employers. We have developed an extensive apprenticeship journey toolkit that identifies how effective application of digital technologies can help in the delivery of the new apprenticeship standards.

Furthermore, to enable staff and learners to work on the move, having access to eduroam means that they could be close to a venue that offers eduroam connectivity, and the eduroam companion app can help them find their nearest venue.

Is your learner data providing you with the relevant insights to improve teaching and learning?

Our new tool Data Explorer shows teaching staff visualisations of teaching and learning data in easy to use dashboards while Study Goal presents the same information to learners so that they can set their own targets and take more control of their own learning. We’re developing a learning analytics service to enable your college to identify learners who are at risk of underachieving or dropping out and to plan interventions that will get them back on track.

Are your investment decisions to improve infrastructure maximising ROI?

Your college can benefit from leading edge, digital infrastructure without any upfront capital expenditure by migrating to the cloud. We offer the opportunity for colleges to stop managing core services on site and to adopt a software as a service (SaaS) model, where applications are hosted via Jisc and accessed by organisations on the world-class Janet network.

Colleges will benefit from using a network that is stable, pro-actively monitored and continually being improved to deliver their services, paid for under a clear, value-for-money, pay per month charging model.

Is it easy for you to obtain insights from peers across the sector regarding effective digital practice?

Get some good ideas and find out what has worked in other organisations by dipping into the case studies in the evolution of FELTAG, our frequently updated report describing the digital visions and journeys of colleges and skills providers.

For more information on these and other ways that we can support your college’s transformation through digital technologies, please contact your account manager.

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For further information, contact:

1 http://ji.sc/Sainsbury-review
2 http://ji.sc/fundamental-technology
3 jisc.ac.uk/amazon-web-services
4 http://ji.sc/Express-route
5 http://ji.sc/Digital-leaders-programme
7 http://ji.sc/strategy-review
9 jisc.ac.uk/janet
10 jisc.ac.uk/eduroam
11 jisc.ac.uk/managed-router-service
12 jisc.ac.uk/domain-registry
13 jisc.ac.uk/email-advice
14 jisc.ac.uk/blacklists
15 jisc.ac.uk/csirt
16 jisc.ac.uk/uk-federation
17 jisc.ac.uk/guides/identity-management
18 jisc.ac.uk/copac
19 jisc.ac.uk/suncat
20 https://ccm.copac.jisc.ac.uk
21 http://ji.sc/UK-LOCKSS-router
22 jisc.ac.uk/e-books-for-fe
23 jisc.ac.uk/digimap-for-colleges
24 jisc.ac.uk/shared-data-centre
25 http://ji.sc/Data-archiving
26 jisc.ac.uk/colocation
27 http://ji.sc/routers-and-switches
28 jisc.ac.uk/telecoms-purchasing-framework
29 jisc.ac.uk/netpath
30 jisc.ac.uk/janet
31 jisc.ac.uk/vscene
32 jisc.ac.uk/janet-txt
33 http://janet.iocom.co.uk
34 jisc.ac.uk/telephony-purchasing
35 jisc.ac.uk/financial-x-ray
36 jisc.ac.uk/area-review-support
37 jisc.ac.uk/archives-hub
38 jisc.ac.uk/zetoc
39 http://ji.sc/JUSP-Portal
40 jisc.ac.uk/hairdressing-training
41 http://ji.sc/media-plus-alexander-street
42 jisc.ac.uk/historical-texts
43 jisc.ac.uk/digimap-collections
44 jisc.ac.uk/journal-archives
45 jisc.ac.uk/advice
46 jisc.ac.uk/guides/developing-organisational-approaches-to-digital-capability
47 jisc.ac.uk/reports/the-evolution-of-feltag
48 http://feltag.org.uk/
49 jisc.ac.uk/consultancy
50 jisc.ac.uk/rd/projects/identity-managed-services
51 jisc.ac.uk/training/digital-leaders-programme
52 jisc.ac.uk/eduroam
53 jisc.ac.uk/rd/projects/student-digital-experience-tracker
54 jisc.ac.uk/rd/projects/effective-learning-analytics
55 jisc.ac.uk/reports/the-evolution-of-feltag
56 jisc.ac.uk/contact/your-account-manager