Welcome to the TEL Newsletter May 2016

**Digital**: Next year’s Enhancement Theme 2016-17 is ‘Digital’ and there will be lots of activities around increasing our use of digital tools across learning, teaching, research and administration. A key project that IS and the TEL team are working on is the Digital U that brings together a range of resources to support development of our digital capability.

**Conference**: “Digital Capability: Transforming Our Learning and Teaching” will be held on 7 July 2016 and will include a wide range of sessions on TEL, including some presentations by our team. Full details of the programme and booking are on the Learning and Teaching Conference Blog.

**TEL Focus 2016/17**: Next year’s TEL activities will include a focus on the following themes:

1. Using Mobile technologies outside the classroom
2. Creating content and developing Flexible Learning and Flipped classrooms
3. Creating and developing quality Blackboard Courses
4. Improving the Blackboard experience
5. Focus on Feedback

**Web conferencing with Collaborate**: Many staff have been trying out web conferencing for online seminars, meetings and for lectures by external speakers. See the case study below:

**Blackboard Ultra –Live Link to Channel 4 HQ in London: Masterclass - The Schedulers Role – Industry Expert Bethan Jones**

A live link to Bethan Jones at Channel 4 HQ in London from Staffordshire University's Senior Lecturer Sheila McCormick and Level 5 students studying on the Film, Television and Radio Studies Award, FACT, was successfully undertaken in February. This was part of an interactive lecture where Bethan talked about her role as a Presentation Schedule Executive. The session used Blackboard Collaborate Ultra to connect live to the studio at Channel 4 and a short Masterclass with Bethan allowed the students to ask questions regarding Bethan’s professional practice within the television industry whilst working for Channel 4. The Masterclass was recorded and made available as a resource on Blackboard to allow the students to revisit the session.
**Staffing changes:** As many of you will be aware, our Learning Technologist in BEL, Marjorie Collaco will be leaving us for a great career opportunity in Birmingham in June. Marjorie has worked at the university for a number of years in a variety of roles. We would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her hard work over the years. She is an invaluable member of the team and will be missed.

**TEL Blog:** for all our updates and events check the TEL Blog [https://blogs.staffs.ac.uk/tel/](https://blogs.staffs.ac.uk/tel/)

**Distance Learning and Blended Learning:** if you are thinking about new modules or updating, contact [tel@staffs.ac.uk](mailto:tel@staffs.ac.uk) for a discussion and to look at best practice.

**More information:** Contact your faculty Learning Technologist or email [tel@staffs.ac.uk](mailto:tel@staffs.ac.uk) for support and guidance on using technology to enhance learning.