

# Introducing eFolio



Reflection can be a very profound learning experience whereby students learn to compare what they did several years ago with what they can do now. Why students select certain artefacts and not others, why they see something as significant for them, and possibly not their 'best' work, is all about understanding oneself.

Managing a large number of courses and modules needs clarity of mind. The e-Portfolio is an excellent 'organiser' in this context, enabling the young student to focus upon what is important in each subject area, particularly when it comes to saying 'This collection is what represents the Real ME.'

Far too often, students with excellent academic credentials might not have specialised in ICT at KS4 and thus invariably have little experience of HTML. The virtue of eFolio is that such skills are not necessary. Any form of text documents, scanned images or 'rich media' can be uploaded or hyperlinks can be put in place to other repositories. It's just like owning your own website, but without the problems of understanding HTML or CSS. eFolio acts as a 'gatekeeper' in that the student must decide what to put in the portfolio rather than use it as a total repository for everything!

As the student matures he/she will probably choose a different template design, colour scheme or font size. This very much supports the concept of 'ownership' of the e-Portfolio. New menu items can be easily added as can 'sub-menus'.

Home
My classes
Educational Background
Samples of My Work
Voluntary Work
Employment History
Career Objectives
Hobbies and Clubs
Research Projects
Mentors
Work Experience
Projects
Personal Profile
Contact Info

There are three distinct routes evolving in education at the present time, ie the 14-19 'Vocational' curriculum, the more academic route via 'A'-levels and, in some circumstances, the possibility of a Baccalaureate. Whichever route one takes, an eFolio would appear to be the obvious accompaniment.

For those following the Diploma route, it is essential that they collate their work in a presentation Portfolio - eFolio is designed for just this sort of work. They say 'a picture is worth a thousand words.' Well, how much more powerful a video or other rich-media? All of which should be found within any eFolio.

As young people progress through KS5 invariably this includes time spent in studying Careers advice, developing Work Experience placements, field trips, research projects and community events, none of which quite fit into the standard system of diarised lessons and subjects.

Towards the end of KS5 again, students will have to face several situations in which they have to represent themselves, either to potential employers or applications to move on to further study at university.

But even then the e-Portfolio is not finished. It will become the constant companion within the very different social scene of university life. At times a planner, at other times a tool for collaboration, using all the power of Web2.0 and at other times a confessional or private diary, the eFolio continues to evolve whenever and where-ever one might be studying.

In each case eFolio is the ideal tool for representing the student.

