

USP College

Boosting learning outcomes with immersive virtual classrooms



The Challenge

Connecting three campuses and extending the reach of specialist teachers.



The Solution

Multiple virtual classrooms delivering a real-time, immersive learning experience.



The Results

Shared specialist expertise, leading to improved learning outcomes.

The Client

USP College was formed in 2017 following the merger of Seevic College (based in Benfleet) and Palmer's College (based in Grays). The newly merged college operates across three campuses over 10 miles apart. It serves 4,500 students and provides career-focused learning and professional qualifications.

The Challenge

How to deliver cost-effective, collaborative teaching across three disconnected campuses?

- USP College recognised they were experiencing testing times; subjects with low student numbers and challenges recruiting quality teaching staff.
- The geographical barriers of delivering specialist teaching across the campus settings were proving costly and problematic.
- They identified a need to eradicate variations in teaching and outcomes between the campuses and across subjects.

USP College were looking for a solution that would allow them to deliver cross-campus teaching and expand the reach of their best teachers.

The Solution

The solution was to create a number of immersive teaching spaces, with the added wow factor.

- The Ultra HD V-Room classroom system was installed across multiple rooms to create an engaging learning experience
- Large, fully interactive screens allow real-time collaboration across classrooms and between campuses
- Design of the rooms was key; the aim was to create a social space rather than replicate the traditional model of online learning
- Each session can be recorded using Vscene Capture and accessed by students from media library for reference

The solution included Vscene, the class scheduling platform, V-Room, an all-in-one HD hardware bundle and VsceneCapture for recorded content.



Better educational experience

It's better for both learners and teachers. The 'immersive' classrooms have been designed to deliver an engaging and inspiring setting for the students. Large screens, high quality video and zero latency allow teachers to deliver a seamless and natural teaching experience.



Better cross-campus connection

Geographical barriers have disappeared. USP College has approximately 10 virtual classrooms scheduled every week through Vscene. These join up multiple rooms across the campuses, as well as providing access to remote students. The HD technology gives the illusion of 'invisible walls' between the campuses.



Better learning outcomes

The results speak for themselves. The sharing of specialist expertise across campuses, plus an uplift in student motivation have resulted in improved learning outcomes. Students are also profiting from improved communication skills, which in turn increases their employability.

Client Q&A with Dan Pearson, Principal

What were your main priorities when sourcing a solution?

Our priorities spanned both a curriculum and technological platform. We wanted to ensure we could provide high quality career focused curriculum so considered how we could utilise and extend the reach of our best subject specialist teachers. A cross campus immersive learning environment seemed both a logical and future focused step in achieving this.

What do you believe are the main tangible benefits so far from using the solution?

Extending the reach of our best teachers cross campus, improved and progressive teaching and learning environments, and the ability to collaborate with experts both in other educational institutions and in industry have all contributed to improved student outcomes.

Did you have any challenges during deployment and how did you overcome them?

Yes, initially we chose a different technology platform which was more costly and much less effective. We learnt the hard way. We re-evaluated our brief for a solution that would enhance rather than detract from the learning experience and outcomes of students; Vscene ticked our particular boxes. We went for a bespoke set up to create that true immersive and seamless teaching environment. It took time for us to master a shift in teaching style, student management and engagement and to tweak some technical points in support of this.

What subjects are you currently teaching?

We teach a range of courses including Science, Physics, Creative Arts and Humanities. We are currently in the process of timetabling a number of Higher Education courses at present.

