Are virtual insight visits an effective way of engaging learners?

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Introduction

Field trips and insight visits can have wide-ranging benefits to students including:
- Reinforcing and expanding upon taught learning
- Improving ability to relate theory to practice
- Encouraging collaborative learning
- Enhancing motivation

Benefits may lead to enhanced student experience, outcomes and employability as well as widening museum participation

Questions

➢ Can a live virtual insight visit to Bletchley Park Museum provide mature distance learners with effective interaction with a real-world environment?
➢ Can interactive virtual insight visits provide mature distance learners with similar benefits to traditional insight visits?

Results

➢ 101 students participated
➢ Age: mean (SD) 38±14
➢ 42% of student participants were identified as being in the lowest 50% of the Index of Multiple Deprivation
➢ 54% of respondents would find it difficult to attend Bletchley Park Museum in person
➢ 100% of respondents said they would attend relevant virtual visits/webcasts in future

Conclusion and recommendations

➢ Results indicate that live interactive visits may be an effective way of engaging distance learners
➢ Further investigation is required
Acknowledgements and References

Tom Briggs - https://tkbriggs.co.uk/contact/
Kate Travers (Head of Learning, Bletchley Park, 2020)
Bletchley Park Trust
Trevor Collins and Knowledge Media Institute
The eSTEeM team at the OU Centre for STEM Pedagogy

A recording of the webcast can be watched here - https://player.open.ac.uk/share/5da0d3d6eb
A short film detailing our research can be watched here - https://youtu.be/e8pAajojGVY


