About Futurelab

http://www.futurelab.org.uk/

Futurelab is an independent not-for-profit organisation that is dedicated to transforming teaching and learning, making it more relevant and engaging to 21st century learners through the use of innovative practice and technology. Futurelab has a long track record of researching and demonstrating innovative uses of technology and aim to support systemic change in education – and are uniquely placed to bring together those with an interest in improving education from the policy, industry, research and practice communities to do this.

Futurelab's work to date covers a range of both topical and forward-thinking areas including, among others, curriculum innovation; learning spaces and building capital programmes; digital inclusion; health and well-being; play and computer games; adult and family learning; assessment; and digital literacy and participation.

Greater Expectations is a Futurelab project

Greater Expectations: Summary

The opportunities, aspirations and entitlements of young people are the focus of significant debates and policy developments. But how do these debates and policies reflect and support young people's own interests, aspirations and ideas about what their lives should be like? Greater Expectations explores the issues that matter to young people in their lives and learning, asks how they can feel empowered and motivated to achieve their aspirations, learn about their entitlements and create change, and examines what role digital technologies can play in that process.

About Infocow (http://www.infocow.org.uk/)

Infocow connects you with useful stuff to help take control of life - sites, stories, information and inspiration. It's made for and created by young people, aged around 14-19. It links to hundreds of different websites and sources of information that can help you to make positive changes, whether that's finding out what to do after you finish your GCSEs, or what the first steps are to leaving home.

Infocow is sociable. If you find something you like on the site shout about it – vote it, comment on it, or share it on your Facebook wall.

What is it?

Infocow is 'a social search for stuff that matters'. It's made for and created by young people, aged around 14-19 . It links to hundreds of different websites and sources of information that can help you to make positive changes, whether that's finding out what to do after you finish your GCSEs, or what the first steps are to leaving home.

Although there are lots of links in Infocow right now, we want you to suggest sites that you think are useful to help people get what they want out of life. So we've added a 'suggest a site' button. If you find something useful online, share it on Infocow!

What makes it different?

Infocow is sociable. So you can always see other people's votes and comments to help you know if links are any good. The idea is that while a search engine will give you lots of information, Infocow can help you find links that other young people can recommend.

If you find something you like on the site, shout about it – vote it, comment on it, or share it on your Facebook wall. That way other people will benefit from your knowledge. Equally if you find a site you think is important that isn't on Infocow, don't keep it to yourself, suggest it to Infocow and get it on the site so everyone can share it.

You can make a profile on Infocow so you can vote and comment on sites and suggest other sites that are useful. You can also link your Infocow profile to Facebook so you can share resources among your friends or see what they think is worth looking at. If you do create a profile it means that Infocow can learn what you are interested in and start making useful recommendations.

Your Rights

Lastly Infocow gives you information about your rights. So every time you search for something it will give you a fact about your rights in the 'did you know box' related to your search. Hopefully if we know what we're entitled to, it can help us to go out and get it.

Why is it called 'Infocow'?

Info – Stands for Information. Infocow tries to connect you with specific, useful information that helps you get the most out of life.

Cow – Infocow is sociable (like cows), the more you share your votes and comments, the more useful it makes the site for everyone else.

About Kieron Kirkland

Kieron'a current work as a learning researcher for Futurelab includes leading the Greater Expectations project, which is exploring how digital technology can support young people to engage with their rights and entitlements, and researching the uses of computer games for learning. He has also published work on overcoming barriers to educational innovation, and the possibilities for the use of emerging technologies in educational settings.

Before joining Futurelab he developed and delivered theatre based education programmes as Practitioner-in-Residence for Shakespeare's Globe, ran cognitive behavioural programmes for adult and young adult offenders with the Probation Service, and undertook research in India exploring Theatre as a methodology for social change.

Further Reading

http://www.futurelab.org.uk/projects/greater-expectations

http://www.futurelab.org.uk/resources/documents/project_reports/Greater_Expectations.pdf

http://infocow.org.uk/