1af Gynhadledd Dysgu ac Addysgu

1st Annual Learning and Teaching Conference

18 Mis Medi – 20 Mis Medi| 18 September – 20 September 2013

# Crynoldebau / abstracts

Supporting Students with Directed Learning Resources: Advantages of Private Study

Dr. Hazel Davey

When teaching within the biological sciences the concepts often rely upon basic skills in mathematics and chemistry. However, our student intake includes students with good A’ levels in these subjects through to those who struggled with them at GCSE (or equivalents for students with alternative entry qualifications). Large class sizes and reticence of students to identify themselves as lacking abilities or confidence in these related subjects can lead to some students becoming lost if too much background knowledge is assumed or disengagement of others if too much time is spent rehearsing the basics. To overcome these problems self-study material has been developed and made available through Blackboard. This approach has been tested for the teaching and assessment of chemistry skills for first year students and directed study / self-assessment of data handling with third year students. Feedback from students has been excellent and they have identified advantages to this approach as including 1) the opportunity to make mistakes (and learn from them) in privacy, 2) the ability to work at their own pace at a convenient time, 3) additional support and explanation available via the discussion boards or email. With thought, this approach can provide tailored and timely feedback to enable students to improve their performance.