



Contribution ID: 65

Type: **Poster only**

Boosting student pre-lab engagement using LabBuddy

In this session I will discuss the use of LabBuddy to prepare students for a second-year investigatory Chemistry practical, and how this fits with a programme of blended learning. LabBuddy allows a student to prepare their own script for a practical; effectively forcing them to think about what they will do at every step, including if unexpected outcomes are encountered.

Staff and student feedback on the use of LabBuddy is overwhelmingly positive. 96% of student respondents agreed that they were better prepared for the practical than usual, 70% said that they preferred using LabBuddy to our usual pre-lab activities, and 80% said that they would like to see it used in other modules.

I will also discuss the process of setting up a LabBuddy activity, how it has benefitted our students, and how it fits with our pedagogical goals.

Key words

Learning technology, LabBuddy, practicals, preparation, pre-lab

Region

UK/Ireland

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Session Classification: Poster session