11eg Gynhadledd Dysgu ac Addysgu

11th Annual Learning and Teaching Conference

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Creative communication: who shall I tell about this horrible disease?

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This presentation will explore group work as a vehicle for students to gain both generic skills and subject-specific knowledge from each other. Inspired by a presentation at last year’s L&T conference on Creative Assessment in Modern Languages, a science communication assignment was developed.

To give some autonomy in decision-making, groups were tasked with communicating information about an infectious disease, but were able to choose their own disease and target audience. Submissions included children’s picture books and posters providing information for pet owners, as well as material aimed at other students.

The Royal Society of Biology’s degree accreditation process recognises that developing creativity in undergraduates should be an implicit part of the student experience. Accreditation requires that “Students are given the opportunity and encouragement to apply original or unconventional ideas, to be imaginative, and to tackle problem solving using techniques designed to develop individual and group creativity”. This assignment developed and assessed these skills in a low-stakes way, while also encouraging interaction between students to help build an effective learning community within the first semester of their degree.

