9fed Gynhadledd Dysgu ac Addysgu

 9th Annual Learning and Teaching Conference

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# Crynoldebau / abstracts

Remote teaching of microbiology practicals

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This semester I have the daunting prospect of delivering 16 hrs of practical classes in basic microbiology to 240 1st year students via Teams. Microbiology is a very hand-on subject with basic skills in aseptic technique, subculturing and growing microbes, as well as examining them via microscopy being difficult to convey virtually. In past years, the classes were delivered in 4x4hr sessions (these are duplicated on two days and in two parallel lab sessions, so that each teacher is teaching a lab of 50-60 students. This year I have modified the original format (whilst trying to keep most of the content) so that it is delivered in three 'units', each composed of 2-5 sub-session. The backbone is a series of powerpoint sessions with numerous videos: the short ones in the powerpoint and the longer ones in Panopto compacted this into. These were supported by 3 x1hr seminar sessions (plus an optional 1hr 'drop-in' seminar session -to accommodate the students in +8hr and -6hr timezones). It is difficult to know how these were received but I was pleasantly surprised to find that my attempts to convey basic stats (ANOVA) and microscope calibration worked better this year than in 'normal' years. These aspects, and my introduction of a formative test via Blackboard MCQ, will be retained in the future