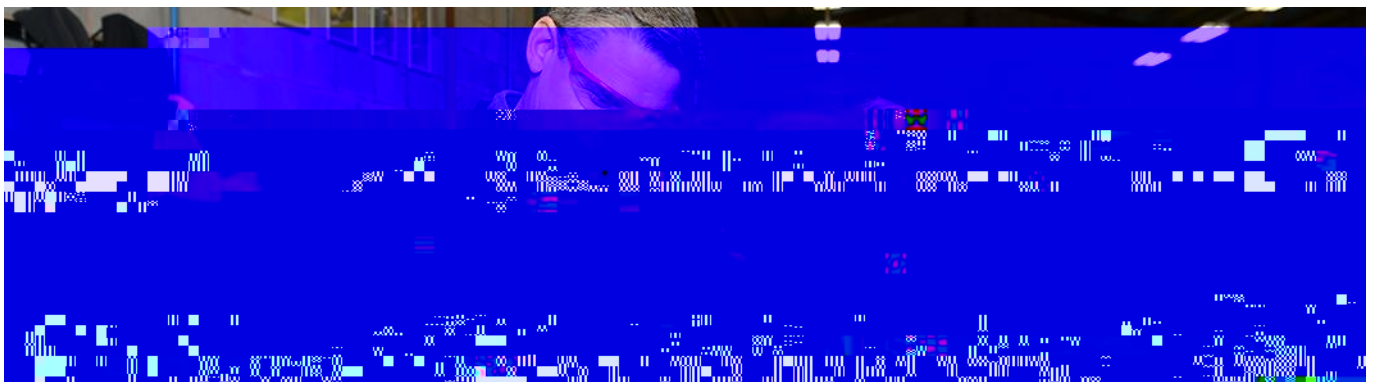# THE 2019 LEARNER DIGITAL PERSPECTIVES SURVEY

PREPARED BY OPINIUM FOR THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOUNDATION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Attitudes to Subjects

Subject satisfaction for FE students is high on most courses (84%+); with 'Leisure, retail and education' and 'Health, care and agriculture' lower on 76% and 71% respectively.

Technology used

Both learners and teachers make use of a wide range of technologies available to them, with teachers widely incorporating interactive digital elements in their teaching. However, the type of technology and the extent to which this technology is used to assist learning, differs among learners and teachers.

Satisfaction with technology and support needs

Most learners are encouraged to use digital technologies to assist their learning and agree that this helps them to learn better.

The hardware and software available to learners is for the most part described positively, and the majority are satisfied with the technology available to them.

Learners feel confident using the technology available. They are also confident in their teacher's/trainer's ability to use technology in their teaching/training. However, the majority of learners also agree that there is potential for teachers/trainers to use more technology.
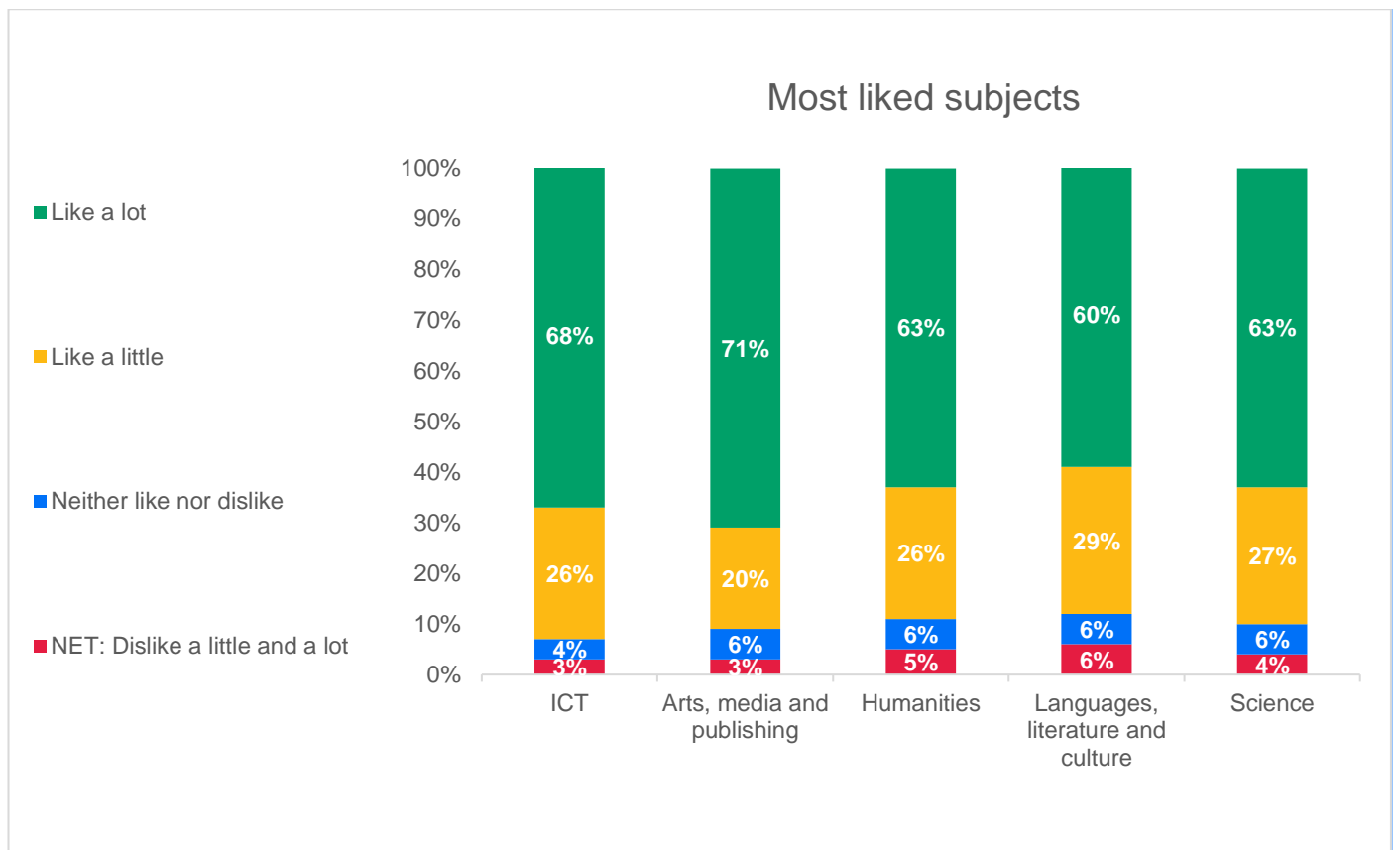
Enablers and Barriers

Learners believe the classroom design, including access to WIFI/hardware nBT/F1 1151nclud8871 0 595.32 841.92 reW* nBT/F1 11.52 Tf1 0 0 1 60.6 155.3 Tm0l.T
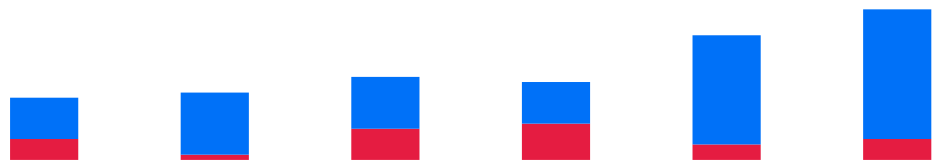
ATTITUDES TO SUBJECTS

Most liked subjects

Information and communication technology (ICT) ranks first for satisfaction among learners followed by Arts, media and publishing. Satisfaction is high for most subjects.

Most students across all subjects say that they like the subject they take either a lot or a little. A lower percentage say they neither like nor dislike the subject they take, and no subject is particularly disliked.

Most liked subjects

	ICT	Arts, media and publishing	Humanities	Languages, literature and culture	Science
Like a lot	68%	71%	63%	60%	63%
Like a little	26%	20%	26%	29%	27%
Neither like nor dislike	4%	6%	6%	6%	6%
NET: Dislike a little and a lot	3%	3%	5%	6%	4%

Technology used for specific tasks

Most learners use technology available to help them with revision and homework.

TASK	% LEARNERS
Revision	72%
Homework	71%
Coursework	64%
Presentations	62%
Accessing resources	52%
Group activity	41%
Creating content	40%
Assessment	38%
Teacher feedback	33%
Exams	27%
Peer feedback	16%

While 82% of students aged 16-18 use technology for revision purposes, the percentage falls to 47% for students aged 19+. Once again, level 3 students prove to be more tech savvy, with 82% using technology for revision compared to 59% for Entry level, level 1 and level 2 students and 50% for level 4 and above

A large proportion (85%) of learners say they use digital communities as part of their programme.

As part of their programme, 88% of General Further Education College students and 83% of Sixth Form college students are using digital communities.
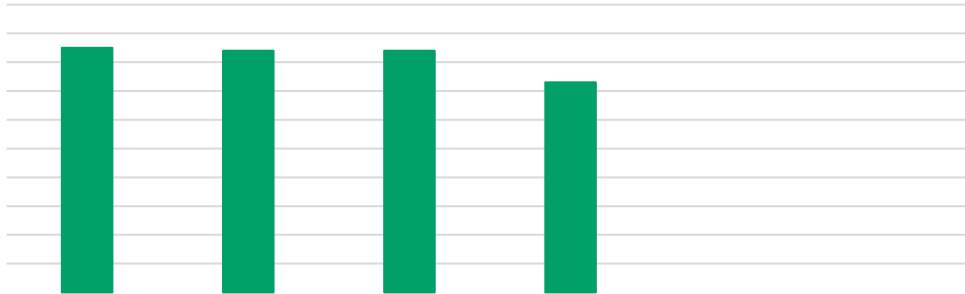
93% of learners are encouraged to collaborate and communicate with their peers and teachers using digital technologies.

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SUBJECT	% LEARNERS
Use similar amount of technology at each class	29%
Science	15%
Arts, media and publishing	12%
Business, administration and law	6%
ICT	6%
Humanities	5%
Social Sciences	5%
Mathematics	3%

SATISFACTION WITH TECHNOLOGY AND SUPPORT NEEDS

Software technology

Software technologies score better than hardware among learners, but it is considered slower and older.

The software technology available score well with learners with most describing it as easy to use (85%), functional (84%) and compatible (84%). To a greater degree than with hardware technologies, fast and new are less frequently used to describe software technologies available to learners.

Satisfaction with technology

Most students are satisfied with the technology available to them.

86% of learners are satisfied with the technology available at their college/training provider. Satisfaction levels are highest among level 4 – level 8 students (91%).

Despite the satisfaction with technology being high, over half (54%) would like to use more technology in their studies. 69% of students studying Information and communication technology (ICT) would like to use more technology, followed by Leisure, retail and education students (68%) and Health, care and agriculture (63%).
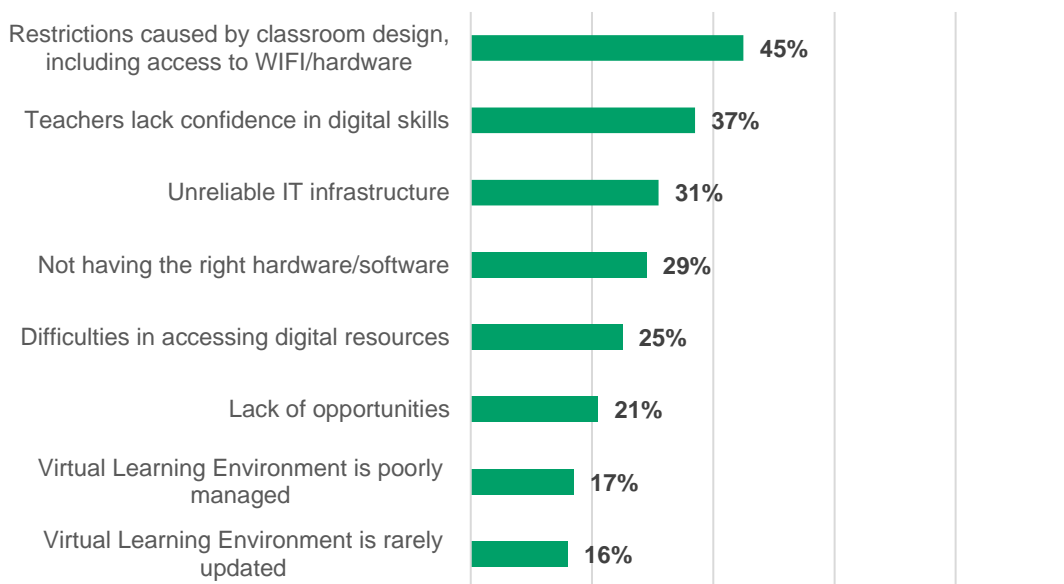
LEVEL	Potential for teacher/trainer to use more technology
Entry level - level 2	74%
Level 3	82%
Level 4 - Level 8	79%

ENABLERS AND BARRIERS

Barriers to technology

According to learners, the biggest barrier to using technology in learning is the physical restrictions caused by classroom design, including access to WIFI/hardware.

According to 45% of learners, the biggest barrier to using technology in their learning is the restrictions caused by classroom design, including access to WIFI/hardware. 37% of learners also think that teachers lack confidence in digital skills and therefore create a barrier to using technology in learning.

of entry – level 2 learners and 24% of level 4-8 learners.

The top two challenges faced by subjects are restrictions caused by classroom design (for Science, Maths, Humanities, Social Sciences, English (including literacy), Business, administration and law) and the lack of confidence in teachers' digital skills (ICT, Languages, literature and culture, and Health, care and agriculture)