Inclusive Teaching Enhancements Project Update: Trinity term 2022

**Welcome to the Inclusive Teaching Enhancements Project update**

Since the publication of [our first project update in 2021](http://news.it.ox.ac.uk/q/119zx0GEp5pk/wv), the Inclusive Teaching Enhancements project has introduced multiple features and delivered achievements which would not have been possible without the input and support of staff and students. Key among these have been implementation of the Blackboard Ally accessible content tool, but also technical changes have been introduced which are designed to simplify inclusive teaching. Some of the changes are happening behind the scenes but combined with other developments, will help us to achieve our aim of making inclusive teaching the default practice at Oxford.

We hope you have found the changes made to date helpful. We are always happy to hear from you with any thoughts, comments or suggestions. The work of the project itself is due to complete by the end of July but the Centre for Teaching and Learning will continue to prioritise inclusive teaching in its overall approach. Find out [more about the project](https://projects.it.ox.ac.uk/inclusive-teaching-enhancement-project#:~:text=The%20Inclusive%20Teaching%20Enhancements%20project%20will%20design-in%20and,sponsored%20by%20the%20Centre%20for%20Teaching%20and%20Learning.?msclkid=424132adb6c711ecb3d72b06b8cb0e9d) or visit the Centre for Teaching and Learning to learn more about [the principles of inclusive teaching](https://www.ctl.ox.ac.uk/inclusive-teaching?msclkid=dd301fc5b71711ecb1d29eeeb6a3b2cf).

**Blackboard Ally: Oxford's accessible content tool**

[Blackboard Ally](https://www.ctl.ox.ac.uk/blackboard-ally) was successfully rolled out across Oxford in early Hilary term 2022. Many thanks to the staff and students who took part in pilot activity and to our divisional leads who supported the rollout. It was introduced as a result of student feedback and improves the student experience by providing Canvas content in accessible and alternative formats. It supplements the [SensusAccess](https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/services/disabled-readers/sensusaccess?msclkid=140712a0b71811ecaafaa6253a8a47f4) tool which can be used for anything outside of Canvas.

Supporting webinars for staff were held in January, with follow up webinars building on the use of Blackboard Ally in March and April.

Please visit the [Centre for Teaching and Learning](https://www.ctl.ox.ac.uk/blackboard-ally) for more details and to view the webinar recordings.

**Microsoft Teams integration for Canvas: rich features to promote inclusivity**

At the end of Michaelmas term 2021 the project introduced the Microsoft Teams integration for Canvas, allowing users to create a Microsoft team class with the same users as enrolled in a Canvas course in a single click.

Users can benefit from all the usual functionality available outside the integration, such as chat, collaborative file sharing and editing, breakout rooms, and the use of Whiteboards.

If you haven't used the feature yet, visit the [Microsoft Teams integration page](https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/12009/pages/microsoft-teams-integration) in the Canvas staff guidance for more information.

**Calendar Sync tool: giving you more control over your calendars in Canvas**

The calendar sync tool is an extremely popular update that allows users to import their Canvas calendars into another calendar, e.g., Outlook or Gmail, integrating due dates and other events into any calendar used regularly.

Your Canvas calendar can also be exported to PDF or Word, so that you can easily print or share your calendar with others. See the [Canvas Guides for more details](https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/21629/pages/the-calendar).

**Embedding a JISC online survey in Canvas**

Last year we shared our plans to produce an integrated survey tool as part of the project deliverables. This was in response to the University’s intention to [decommission WebLearn](https://it.web.ox.ac.uk/article/weblearn-update-teaching-learning-tools-withdrawn) and related tools in use.

We realise this is still a much-needed requirement, but unfortunately due to supplier issues it is no longer possible to deliver it within the time frame of the project. We hope it will be revisited soon.
In the interim, we have produced guidance on [how to embed a JISC Online survey into Canvas](https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/12009/pages/embedding-a-jisc-online-survey-in-canvas). Additional functionality will also be developed to help staff add course participants being surveyed to JISC online surveys.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

**Find out 'What's New in Canvas'**

The [‘What’s New in Canvas’](https://www.ctl.ox.ac.uk/whats-new-in-canvas-0?msclkid=29a54f81b44a11ec8decd41429002907#collapse3233626) page on the Centre for Teaching and Learning site is your one stop shop for information and links to important changes in Canvas.

You will find all the updates from the Inclusive Teaching Enhancements projects as well as news about developments from Instructure, the suppliers of Canvas, and our Oxford Development team so make sure to check in to keep updated on the latest changes.

**Get ready for Global Accessibility Awareness Day**

The Centre for Teaching and Learning will be partnering with IT Services and the University Administration Services (UAS) in consultation with the Disability Advisory Service and the Inclusive Teaching Enhancements Project to deliver activities and events marking [Global Accessibility Awareness Day](https://www.ctl.ox.ac.uk/article/gaad-2022-thursday-19-may) (GAAD) on **Thursday 19 May 2022**.

The purpose of GAAD is to get people to focus on digital access and inclusion for people with disabilities and impairments. Its aims align with the University’s Strategic Plan priority of reducing attainment gaps between different groups of students and encouraging action to increase digital accountability for students and staff. More information about events, guidance and activities will be released shortly.

**Coming Soon**

The following changes will be delivered by end of July 2022:

**Inclusive Teaching Course Checklists and Guidance**: developed with the help of staff in the Centre for Teaching and Learning and the Disability Advisory Service, the resources will support academics and administrators by taking the guesswork out of ensuring that Canvas courses meet important inclusivity criteria. The guidance will focus on planning an Inclusive Teaching Course in Canvas, and a Canvas Course Pre-launch Quick Check will also be made available. The resources are expected to be finalised by the end of May.

**Continuous improvements**: throughout the lifetime of the project, audits and enhancements have taken place on a regular basis. These include working with organisations such as [AbilityNet](https://www.abilitynet.org.uk/?msclkid=f2c2c4a5b6c411ec87b06d7953373d62) to ensure that Oxford not only meets but exceeds expectations for compliance with accessibility benchmarks where possible.

We are also improving on released functionality, including in the [Manage Sections tool](https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/12009/pages/understanding-sections/) and [Calendar export to PDF](https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/21629/pages/the-calendar), so please review the guidance via the links provided to see the changes made.

Mobile and tablet users will in addition benefit from changes which will improve the user experience and students will soon be able to see Sign-Up tool events in their personal Canvas calendars. Improvements were made recently for iOS users involving the removal of cookies for the Sign-Up tool.

**Get in touch**

For a full list of changes introduced by the project, please visit the [Inclusive Teaching Enhancements Project](https://projects.it.ox.ac.uk/inclusive-teaching-enhancement-project#:~:text=The%20Inclusive%20Teaching%20Enhancements%20project%20will%20design-in%20and,sponsored%20by%20the%20Centre%20for%20Teaching%20and%20Learning.?msclkid=424132adb6c711ecb3d72b06b8cb0e9d) pages. You can also email us.