9fed Gynhadledd Dysgu ac Addysgu

 9th Annual Learning and Teaching Conference

29 Mehefin – 2 Gorffennaf | 29 June – 2 July 21

# Crynoldebau / abstracts

Discord: Supporting workshops through the pandemic and beyond!

Chris Loftus & Bernie Tiddeman

In March 2020 the pandemic led to all teaching moving online. This proved a particular challenge for large computer science modules that normally provided in-person workshops requiring worksheet signoff and demonstrator student assistance. A solution to support these workshops online had to be found quickly. Students suggested that we use a social gaming platform that they used widely called Discord. Although initially sceptical we tried it and found it to be successful, not only in its support for workshops but more generally for modules.

This session will show how we used Discord to support teaching and will invite delegates to try out its features as role playing students. We will discuss issues such as — ensuring that those using the server are bona fide Aberystwyth staff and students; that students can queue to be helped in a fair manner by staff and student demonstrators; to provide channels for students to discuss and ask questions, perhaps anonymously; to be able to run polls; to support online tutorials; to use it in tandem with synchronous activities such as online seminars and to work in conjunction with resources provided on Blackboard.

use was mostly effective, however not all forms of teaching were dealt with optimally. The session will draw out those activities that were supported well, and those where only in-person teaching is preferable. It will also speculate how a blended approach can be employed next year when, hopefully, full in-person teaching resumes.