



Guildford College Group students can now access information through an iPhone app.

College is first with iPhone app

GUILDFORD College Group has become the first in the UK to launch its own iPhone application. The iGuildford app allows students, staff and visitors to contact the college, use its maps and access its website.

It is free to download and is available to millions of iPhone and Apple users worldwide.

Principal Clive Cooke said: "The college has a strong commitment to e-learning and new media and we are constantly looking for innovative ways to enhance the learner experience."

The app combines information for all three of the campuses making up the Guildford College Group: Guildford, Merrist Wood and Farnham.

"I think it's a good starting point and in theory, it's a good idea," said Joe Cockburn, a 23-year old student at the college.

"They should make three sepa-

rate apps for the separate colleges, not put them all on one."

He said that the app included a good map - "but it's missed off the pubs," he added.

Other students had concerns about its usefulness for every student. "At the moment, it looks just like the website. And what about the people who don't have iPhones?" said Lucy Nicholls, 19.

Additional features are already being developed. A GPS system to help students and visitors find their way around the college will be added, as well as online enquiry forms, course and careers information, college news feeds, video streams and lectures.

Suggestions from students include using it for last minute announcements like closures for bad weather.

Mr Cooke said: "I'm excited about the further developments we have planned for this academ-

ic year and proud that we were the first UK college to develop this and that it was all done by our in-house web services team."

While the iGuildford app will be available exclusively for iPhone users, the college has ambitious plans to develop a 'virtual classroom' in which slides and lectures will be recorded and made available on iTunes U, a new educational section of the Apple store. iTunes is free to download and compatible with PCs, Macs and internet phones.

Business student Shishir Limbu said: "I think this could work really well as you can just look it up and all the information is just a click away. The virtual classroom idea is great too, especially if you are unable to make a class or need to revise."

The online classroom partnership with Apple and iTunes U will be launched in early 2011.