The Power of ICT

E-LEARNING:
An Introduction

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Potential of ICT to Revolutionize Learning: Six Key Dimensions

- **Connectivity** – access to information is available on global scale

- **Flexibility** – learning can take place any time, any place

- **Interactivity** – assessment of learning can be immediate and autonomous

- **Collaboration** – use of discussion tools can support collaborative learning beyond the classroom

Six Key Dimensions ... cont.

◆ **Extended opportunities** – e-content can reinforce and extend classroom-based learning

◆ **Motivation** – multimedia resources can make learning fun

+ *Increased efficiency of tracking and monitoring learners' progress*

What is E-Learning?

- Learning facilitated and supported through the use of ICT
- E-Learning is fundamentally about learning and NOT about technology.
- The focus is on *learning activity*
- e-learning is not just simply providing content and 'learning objects', but about technology as central to contemporary teaching and learning processes
- e-learning as part of the range of resources available to the professional practitioner (Peter Findlay, JISC Learning and Teaching committee)
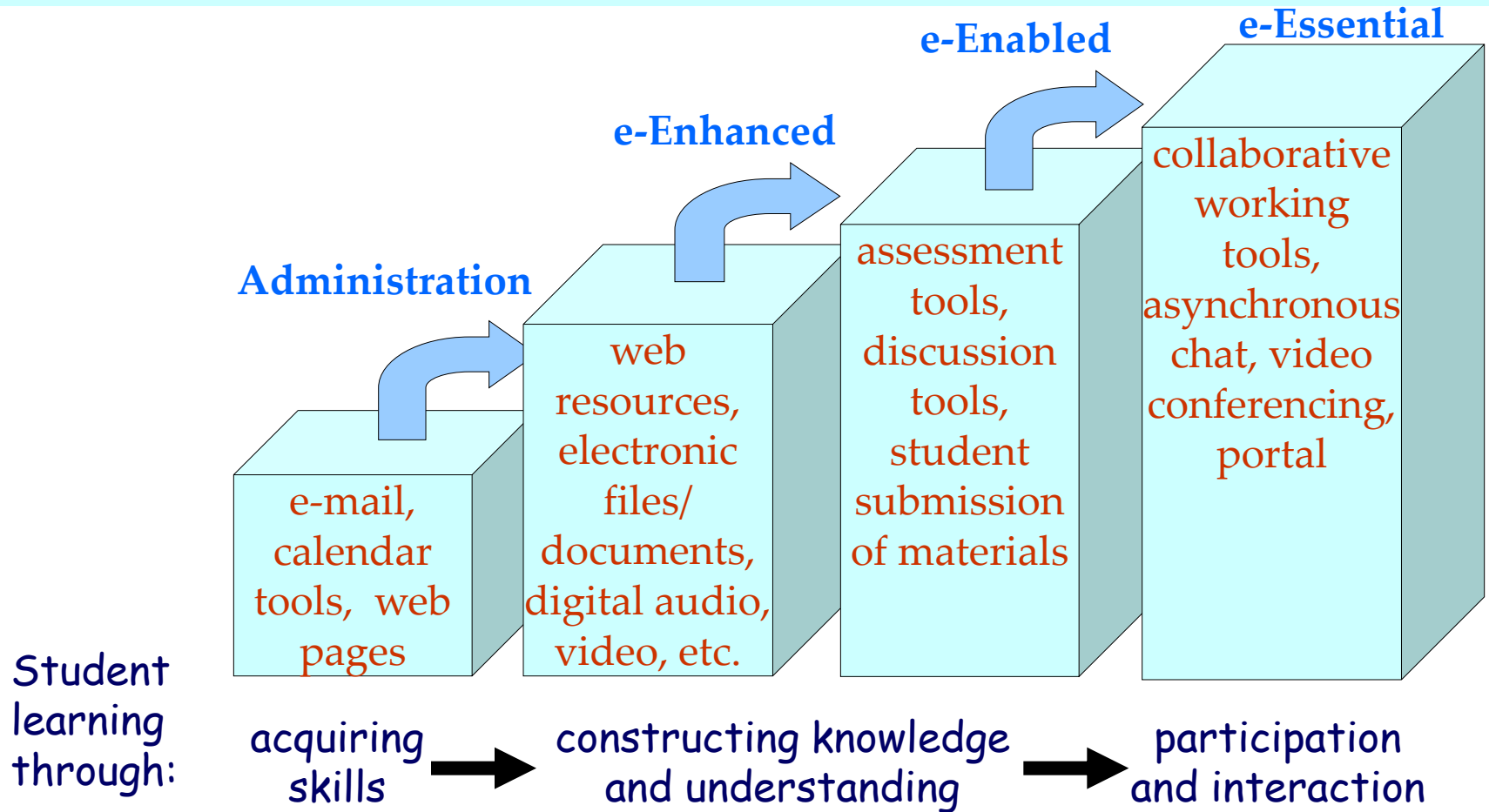
"e-Learning exploits interactive technologies and communication systems to improve the learning experience. It has the potential to transform the way we teach and learn across the board. It can raise standards, and widen participation in lifelong learning. It cannot replace teachers and lecturers, but alongside existing methods it can enhance the quality and reach of their teaching."

(Towards a Unified e-Learning Strategy, DfES 2003)

Possible technologies involved

- PCs (desktop/laptop computers)
- Software, including assistive software
- Interactive whiteboards
- Digital cameras/videos
- Mobile and wireless tools, including mobile phones
- Electronic communication tools, including e-mail, discussion boards, chat facilities, and video conferencing
- Virtual Learning Environments (VLEs)
- Learning activity management systems

E-Learning Framework

Administration

Student learning through:

e-mail, calendar tools, web pages

e-Enhanced

web resources, electronic files/ documents, digital audio, video, etc.

e-Enabled

assessment tools, discussion tools, student submission of materials

e-Essential

collaborative working tools, asynchronous chat, video conferencing, portal

acquiring skills → constructing knowledge and understanding → participation and interaction

(Center for Learning and Teaching, 2003 http://www.wlv.ac.uk/celt/oltips/3what.html)

7

Effective practice e-learning

can be based on the criteria of effective practice in learning generally – that the practice should:

- engage learners in the learning process
- encourage independent learning skills
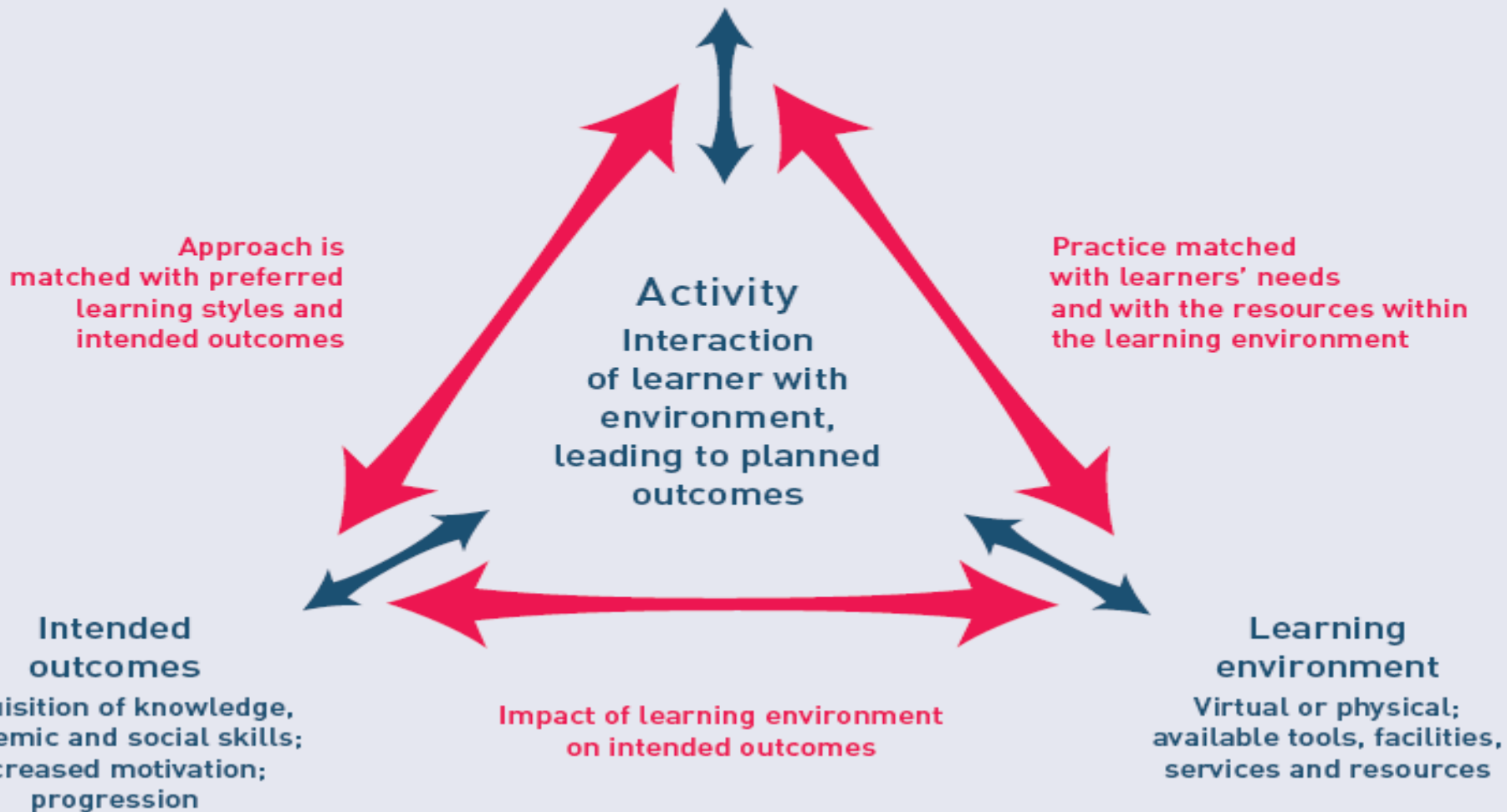- develop learners' skills and knowledge
- motivate further learning

Effective learning

is likely to occur when opportunities to learn involve:

- the right resources
- the right mode (or blend of modes) of delivery
- the right context
- the right learners
- with the right level of support

A model of learning activity design
(*JISC's Effective Practice with e-Learning Guide, 2004, p.15*)

Advantages of E-Learning
(JISC E-learning Practice Case Studies)

- Extending opportunities for learning
- Flexibility (Any time, any place learning)
- Developing evaluative skills
- Managing your learning
- Developing problem solving skills
- Collaborative learning through discussion
- Learning through doing
- Presenting your learning
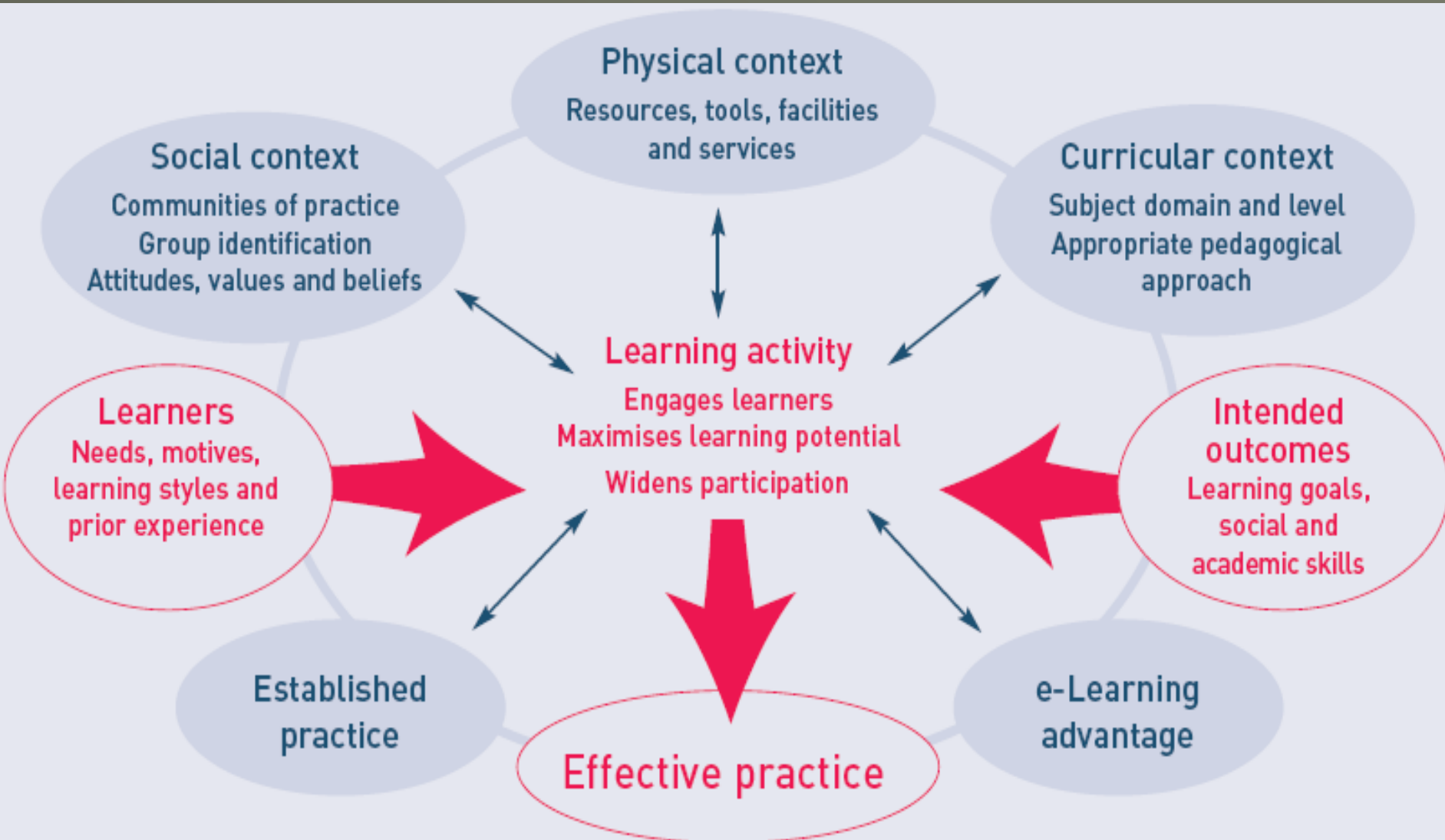
A model of effective practice with e-learning

(*JISC's Effective Practice with e-Learning Guide, 2004, p.49*)