Agile methods

As a group we began this process at a disadvantage to other groups, as 3 of our members had the understanding of what Agile software development was but no real knowledge of how to implement it. We started the process by collecting ideas of how we should go about the project and entered them into a spreadsheet, as at this stage we had gained some insight into how SCRUM worked. From this early and very rudimentary process we added to the process until we got to where we were comfortable the process we used could easily replicated in our working lives after university.

We gathered our early drafts of how we wanted the website to work, what should go in it and how it should look and kept them in a centrally accessible point. This started off at being on Google Drive which we all shared, but had no real way of discovering who had done what, when or why. This gave us a very simple repository for our growing body of work, but no real version control as such because work could easily be lost or written over without the ability to roll back or even spot a collision of work.

Within a few weeks of the process beginning we began to understand how we could apportion difficulty to the tasks we had discovered from our early meetings. We prioritised the jobs into tasks and used “planning poker” to attribute difficulty of the tasks. We could then start to see some of these tasks were epic, allowing us to split these tasks into more manageable sub tasks. These metrics were then fed into our spreadsheet and we could plan our first SPRINT. To plan this first sprint we had a meeting to discuss what we could manage to complete in a period of 3 weeks (this was the period of all our sprints) to find out our initial velocity. This first sprint was very much a learning curve for us as a newly formed group and we began by discovering the processes and information we would need for later stages of the project.

Using a spreadsheet to hold our information was difficult for all our group to understand and made it hard to visualise the project and its progress. With some research we came across a tool that helped us to visualise our project, track progress and plan our sprints on. This tool is an online project management platform called Taiga