

Teaching and Learning – 5 minutes, 5 tips!

EPCS's best ideas, sourced from staff all over the school...

...over a cup of tea!



Issue 1: **Monday, 29th** July 2015

Issued: Half termly

"Respect and Pride"



1 - Resource of the week:

Make sure your lessons are engaging and varied by tracking the different teaching and learning activities you employ with each class. Find an example from **Eleanor Abrahams** attached.

2 – Whole school Literacy and numeracy tips:

Numeracy:

If you want to know if a number is divisible by 9, add up its digits. If the answer is 9 or 18 then the number divides by 9! Eg $2466 = 2+4+6+6 = 18$ therefore 2466 divides by 9. Share this with your tutor group!

With thanks to **Tony Jones**.

Literacy:

Check your homophones!

Your = belongs to you. Eg: Your bag.

You're = You are. Eg: You are going to the shops

With thanks to **Mark Wedge**.

3 – Top tip for creating CHALLENGE:

Pass the parcel with deeper thinking questions:

Encourage your students to progress from the facts to the theory, from the descriptive to the conceptual by using deeper questioning linked to Blooms. Arrange your class into groups and hand each group an envelope. Inside the envelope include a range of questions from knowledge through to analysis, synthesis and evaluation. Using music, ask the members of each group to pass the envelope (pass the parcel). When the music stops they must take out a question and discuss the answer.

You can record these discussions, or ask the students to record their thoughts in writing. You could use post it notes and ask them to place their answer under the relevant blooms taxonomy titles.

With thanks to **Lorraine Crallan**.

4. Current focus in the classroom is:

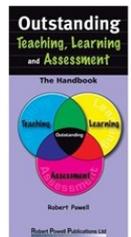
1. Having **high expectations** of all students.
2. Creating **'wobble'** – challenging pupils' preconceptions and making them think outside of the box.

5 - Recommended reading:

Blog of the month is **Joe Kirby's 'Pragmatic Education.'**

Recognised by other bloggers as one of the clearest thinkers currently writing about education, Joe explores almost every topic relevant to education. Check it out at <https://pragmaticreform.wordpress.com/author/j0ekirby/>.

New to the newly established EPCS CPD Library are **Robert Powell's books 'Feedback and Marking' and 'Teaching, Learning and Assessment.'** Both are PACKED full of useful tips and examples.



Come and see me if you want to borrow a copy!

Upcoming CPD events:

1. 1.7.15 = Realsmart Champion Lunch (1.25-1.50pm)
2. 2.7.15 = Teachmeet (8.20-8.35am) – Top tips for Outstanding classroom teaching. **Led by colleagues who have recently visited Maiden Erleigh School.**
3. 7.7.15 = Teachmeet Berkshire @ Bulmershe School, Reading (5.30-7.30pm)
4. 16.7.15 = Teachmeet (8.20-8.35am) – Top tips for challenging HAS students. **Led by Kerry Lees.**
5. Afternoon of 21st and all day 22nd July – Google Docs/Realsmart training for all staff

What are Ofsted saying?

"Marking and feedback should be consistent with school assessment policies and help pupils to make progress in their learning." Is your TPGG up to date in your exercise books?

Have a T+L idea to share? Email it to Matt Hall, so it can appear in the next bulletin!



What makes an outstanding lesson?

....According to teachers...



"Students are willing and active participants, who develop their independence and show enthusiasm for learning. Students in this environment are then able to make real progress and achieve their full potential." (Liz Taplin)



"I know the ultimate emphasis needs to be on progress, but I think what takes a good lesson into the outstanding category is the teacher's ability to inspire, engage, promote enquiry and foster independence." (Kate Alexander)



"The teacher and the students understand that 'nothing is taught until it is learned'; and that learning happens in different ways and at different speeds for everyone." (Abigail Hallworth)



"No matter what crazy GREAT EXPECTATIONS the Tories and OFTSED throw at us, I believe an outstanding lesson is when students and teachers are at ease in their environment, which allows them to share enjoyment for the subject whilst learning effectively." (James Lowe)



"The students are clear on the expected lesson outcome and they are fully engaged throughout the lesson." (Sarah Blake)

....According to students...



"Outstanding teaching involves having fun but the class also knowing they need to be sensible. Outstanding teachers are friendly but know when to tell the class to calm down." (Hadley Rackley-Hayes, Y7)



"Outstanding teaching is when the teacher engages us by using humour and gives us tasks we find interesting. The best teachers spend time supporting everyone and don't pick favourites." (Eloise Scutt, Y8)



"The best teachers have to have a nice personality and share a bit of their character in their teaching. They are firm but fair." (Nathan Mason, Y9)



"In the best lessons, the teacher sets challenging work that makes me think. I prefer it when teachers give me a choice in lessons so I can focus on areas which I'm weaker at." (William Deeks, Y10)



"The best lessons feature a variety of activities, combining theory work with hands on practical tasks wherever possible. The relationship between the teacher and the class is characterised by trust and mutual respect." (Amy Hollis, Y12)

What an excellent idea!

Task Checklist, courtesy of Eleanor Abrahams

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	
1	Task checklist																			
2		7x1	7x2	7y3	8x3	9x1	9y3	10D1	11A1	12D										
3	Snowball																			
4	Twitter chain																			
5	Facebook chain																			
6	Running Dictation																			
7	Beat the Teacher																			
8	Linolt.com																			
9	Trapdoor																			
10	Cluedo																			
11	Dominoes																			
12	Tarsia																			
13	Card sort																			
14	Group Talk mark sheet																			
15	Post-It Afl																			
16	Subtittle Bingo																			
17	Paper Chains																			
18	Jenga																			
19	Connect 4																			
20	Post-It Game																			
21	Physical punctuation																			
22	Venn Diagrams																			

"I have a spreadsheet with lots of different activities listed on it, and all my classes. Each time I do one of the activity types listed, I put the date in the relevant box. That way, I know I am doing a range of activities, and also that the lessons aren't stale or predictable." – Eleanor.