

Newsletter

CPD update

Well here we are in December with Christmas fast approaching, finally your classes are settling down and you are engaging with the teaching and learning challenges your new cohort of learners present. The Education Training Foundation has a number of courses available to support you in the classroom. The innovative practice at Barking and Dagenham College has shown the great impact that can be achieved by having a whole organisation approach to the delivery of maths and English, with vocational tutors working closely to reinforce the GCSE courses. One of the courses the Foundation offers which support this whole organisation approach is the English Revitaliser, which shows vocational tutors how to identify the English in their courses and how it links to GCSE to help their learners.

You can find out more about this course at <https://englishrevitalisers.wordpress.com/>. The courses can be specific to a vocational area or more generic for all your curriculum areas.

To find out more about Barking and Dagenham's model of delivery watch the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E-og1r3otBg>

The size of the challenge facing our sector is unprecedented. The government has allocated funds to attract new tutors to the sector and to provide professional development to support you as you engage with the challenges.

However the shortage of experienced practitioners has meant that many of you have not yet been able to access the support on offer.

Conscious of your time constraints, and often the inability of your institutions to release you for training, we are seeking other ways to support you. To this end we would have to create communities of practice across the region to enable you to meet and gain support for your concerns, but also to share your passion, your resources and your success stories with colleagues in your area. If you are interested in attending one of these informal meetings, or if your institution would like to host one, please email me. We will send out a Doodle Poll when we have a local group, to see when would be the best time. Twilight or Friday afternoons would be possibilities. We would like to launch the events in January, so please send those emails in.

Teaching tips and research-informed practice

We are also going to start publishing your best practice ideas via this newsletter. If you want to share your teaching, or engaging tips, with your colleagues across Yorkshire, Humberside and the North West email them to me for inclusion in future newsletters. Please note there will be a limit to the number we can publish each month but we will do our best to include as many as we can in the New Year Newsletter.

For this edition I have included a summary of the key findings of the recently published research conducted by NIACE on engaging learners in GCSE maths and English. It helpfully tells us learners' views on the kinds of activities that they like and which ones they find a complete turn off! Perhaps some of you have tried these approaches. If so, please get in touch and let us know how they went.

NIACE findings

Learners like:

- Practical interactive teaching methods
- Tutor explains the relevance of activities and contextualises them
- Activities relate to real life and have practical application
- Activities have a purpose and preferably an audience
- To be motivated by seeing the links to work, course and their interests
- Working collaboratively with their peers .

They dislike:

- Reading out loud,
- Doing presentations
- Worksheets, hand-outs and past papers when they do not understand the relevance
- Learning that is not explained in a way that they understand.

The full research report can be accessed through this link [http://www.niace.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Engaging learners in GCSE maths and English.pdf](http://www.niace.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Engaging_learners_in_GCSE_maths_and_English.pdf)

Conference on behaviour management

HUDCETT will be organising a conference on behaviour management at the University of Huddersfield on Friday, 1st July. The programme is still being finalised, though the details I have at the moment are:

Paul Dix, one of the country's leading behaviour specialists, will be presenting – you may have seen Paul's columns in the TES

Professor Sue Wallace will be talking about her research into learner disengagement and the implications of this for teachers' professional practice.

A presentation on the findings from some research being undertaken by the Education and Training Consortium on the types of support new teachers need to be able to confidently deal with the behaviour management issues they face.

A panel discussion about behaviour management issues.

The provisional timings for the day are 9:30 - 3:00 pm. The costs for the conference will be £100 per person and bookings can be made from early February. Full details of the event will be available in my January newsletter.

So from the team at HUDCETT, my manager David Powell, Shai and his technical wizardry and Elaine and her brilliant support and command of all things administrative, and me your Regional English Specialist have a wonderful Christmas, an inspirational New Year and we look forward to working to support you all in 2016.

Merry Christmas

Sue

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