

Learning Bulletin

Issue 8

April 2009

In Brief-

If you do not like me because I am ignorant, I can be sent to school and educated.

If you do not like me because I am dirty, I can be taught to wash and be clean.

If you do not like me because of my unsocial habits, I can be taught how to live in society.

But if you do not like me because of the colour of my skin, I can only refer you to who made me.

Negro priest 1958.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Teach and lead like ours is the most important profession in the world, because it *is*.

Ours is a hope profession, because we touch the face of the future.

Dean Fink.

Next Month:

- Classroom skills- Pacing
- More starters
- Just Jargon 'I'

THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Cast a fresh eye over the learning environment you work in—does it really help you to improve learning, or is it working against you?

What can you do to improve it?

Assertive Discipline techniques tell us quite clearly that the presence of the teacher around the classroom is highly influential—does the layout of your room allow you to exert that presence? Can you walk easily to be in the near vicinity of any student? Or are you always trapped behind your desk?

Just walking over and standing quietly by students can often magically get them back on task—much better than bellowing the length of a classroom!



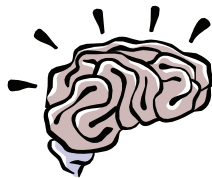
And is your room inviting? Exciting? Interesting?

Add some plants, renew displays regularly and remove junk!

BRAIN GYM!!

💡 When students come to our lessons their brains may not be prepared to work!!

💡 Particularly after having eaten lunch, when their blood supply is focused on their digestive system!



Try out this brain gym technique -

Stand up.

Have an imaginary pencil in hand.

Write your name in the air.

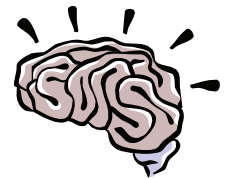
Now write it backwards.

Now write it backwards with the other hand.

Now write your name with both hands, one forwards, the other backwards at the same time.

Finally, write 'ABC' with one hand, whilst writing '123' with the other.

This gets both sides of the brain working



Website of the month:

[http://
www.learntrips.co.uk](http://www.learntrips.co.uk)

Provided by learn.co.uk from the Guardian newspaper, this website brings you over 1,000 of the best venues for schooltrips across the UK and beyond.

You can select your location first, then use the subsequent pages to narrow your search by trip type, age range and subject.

It also includes sections on

- Travel tips
- Risk assessment
- Help
- International zone



REMEMBER:

Challenge is a prerequisite of Learning

JUST JARGON

H

HI Hearing Impaired

HMCI Her Majesty's Chief Inspector.

HMI Her Majesty's Inspectorate Permanent inspection staff of OFSTED.

HOD Head of Department

Home School Agreement Contract given to pupils and parents, outlining the aims and values of a school .

HOY Head of Year

HSE Human Scale Education is an educational charity promoting small schools and small classes because of the many educational benefits which it believes small size can bring.



How are you using your ICT facilities in the classroom?



" Successful practitioners do not use ICT just for the sake of using it. They ensure that the use of the technology enhances the quality of teaching and learning and, where it does not, they make use of more traditional methods. They maximise the power of the computer to do things which are difficult or impossible to do in other ways."

ICT in Schools—OFSTED

The temptation is to either ignore the new technology that has arrived in your room or to use it all the time! — try to make decisions based on **how the students learning will be improved.**

SET YOURSELF A GOAL:

1. If you have no ICT facilities in your classroom, borrow a laptop & projector and use them for a lesson.
2. If you have facilities but tend not to use them—plan next weeks lessons to address this.
3. If you have the facilities *and* use them, review *how* you use them—could you include more pupil interaction? Are they really improving pupil learning? How do you know?