

### Change Seating Plans to



The English Fac follow:  
@MrBruffEnglish  
on Twitter to self drive their own CPD

This term, Rob C has rearranged his seating plan to groups linking to POS and B/O/A or R/A/G on his KS4 acceleration sheets, with lead learners assigned to each group. It has paid off in the way that students are supporting each other and becoming more independent. I've noticed that they are asking me less questions and are relying on each other more.

### Use interleaving to aid deeper learning

Try this: 'Do now'

English Faculty call this the 'Question Mashup'



Alex Flowers has rolled this out in the department for KS4 where, as part of the 'do now' activity, the teacher decides on 3

different questions that range from Brand New, Recent-ish, Rather Old.

For example:

New question:  
- List 5 different persuasive devices Old Major uses in his speech in Animal Farm in Chapter One.

Recent-ish question:  
- What poem is the following quote from: "I wandered through each chartered street"? Stretch & Challenge: What word class is "wandered"?

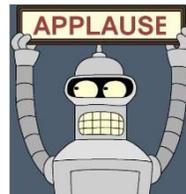
Really old question:  
- what is the question format for English Language Paper 1 (hint: there are 5 questions in total).

The impact has been impressive, gaps are closing, learning is becoming deeper. Speak to the English staff to find out more.

See also,  
<http://www.learningscientists.org/blog/2016/8/11-1>

### Teachers are doing it for themselves

Beth Warren has been working with TA's, strategically with 7L3. They are a demanding group in terms of differentiation and behaviour. If you teach 7L3, do collaborate with Beth, let us know how it goes.



Mark Hodgson shakes it up on Friday mornings with Year 10 experiencing metacognitive development. They have been using pipe cleaners to develop links between topics, he recommends

[fortheloveofteaching.net](http://fortheloveofteaching.net) and

[edutopia.org](http://edutopia.org) - metacognition thinking - (scaffolding / mnemonics).

If you like the sound of this for your class,



liaise with Mark this half term.

Lorraine Eagling's year 9 class are producing revision videos for a BBC bitesize competition. Pop down to Lorraine's room to find out more.

The PE Faculty have been risk taking this term:

Risk - No teacher input after initial instruction

Impact - Responsibility of learning placed onto lead learner using each other as a resource only.

Students have thrived in taking ownership. If you like this idea, take a learning walk through PE.

### IMPROVE 10QQ



Watch the video on Maths Watch then do the Questions at the end of one session.

Consolidate by using 10QQ in the follow up session.

Use Lead learners to show other students how to...

Revisit topics to check for deeper learning.

Ask Jason S for tips for your form group.

15 min FORUMS this term...  
Each Wednesday at 3.15 pm

26 April PIVOTAL AC LE



3 May CREATIVE CLASSROOMS CN

10 May EXTEND WRITING RC

17 May SIMS CLASSES KB

24 May LEADERSHIP IMPACT CN

**DATE FOR YOUR DIARY : REMEMBER IT IS OUR TEACH MEET ON 3 JULY : SHARING IS CARING**



### Pause for thought : Our reflections:

It's good to STOP and reflect: here are some reflections from our staff:

Who are they from?  
Do you see yourself mirrored here?

#### Who/What inspired you to become a teacher?

I liked the thought of being able to challenge myself in terms of what I know and how I could engage students to translate this in an effective way. I never thought I ever had the ability to teach but working and running events made me realise that I could such as PE Teaching in Switzerland or working at USA Fat Camp as a PE teacher and counsellor or leading a team in the Halifax Bank Share Dealing Dept.

#### How long have you been teaching?

16 Years teaching

#### How do you motivate yourself?

Knowing that I can control my day via a classroom and aim to raise aspirations of others in that classroom is a key driver when the going gets tough I.e. Why did I choose it. That you get to work with some hilarious and bright students who are

eager to learn just as much as you and you can do that for them!

#### What is your No 1 secret for success?

Passion and Humour - I believe in what I teach and the knowledge that I have and constantly aim to update it due to nothing other than pure interest. I think I can be funny and engage students even if they do not find me funny - be able to laugh at yourself.

#### What advice would you give a new teacher?

If every day was the same we would be bored to death - thankfully this is job that is never the same even after 16years I still find solace in this fact when times are hard - this is not a dull office job - you get to mould students futures and the next day won't be the same....as students are young and are not always trying to be personal and it's our job to show them the right way.

#### How do you look after your wellbeing?

Exercise / allocate time to work on yourself, see friends, annoy my daughter, go cinema or holidays or new vinyl records that my partner hates - talk to my partner about problems to alleviate stress, read, take a step back from that tough day and do something that you like to do and make a small promise to do it such as a walk or something that cheers you up.

#### Who/What inspired you to become a teacher?

I didn't decide to go into teaching until the fourth year of my languages (French, German and Spanish) degree, the truth was I wasn't really sure what to do and fancied another year of being a student. Little did I know it would be totally different to my

previous university experience...! My subject led me to secondary but, having taught some primary, it was the right setting for me.

#### How long have you been teaching?

I taught for eight years and then went into industry for another eight... I regret leaving teaching for so long and I was so lucky to get back into it as quite a long time had elapsed. It was useful to see another working environment though and I learned life skills during my time in industry. I also learned that the grass isn't necessarily greener.

#### How do you motivate yourself?

I think of my children and remind myself why I am doing the job: I am very lucky to be in a decently paid, part time and term time job.

#### What is your No 1 secret for success?

I don't have a secret! I have been told I am warm and that the students feel comfortable with me.

#### What advice would you give a new teacher?

My advice would be to prepare and to be able to think on your feet.

#### How do you look after your wellbeing?

: I am trying to eat better; I'm complacent as I am rarely ill but I am too old not to be more careful! I don't have much time for exercise but I rarely sit still. I need an hour or so in the evening to unwind, preferably watching a crime drama, the darker the better... And then listening to one in bed on Audible!

#### Who/What inspired you to become a teacher?

Helen Whelan at South Trafford College - she told me to take English language at A Level instead of communication studies, and her passion and drive made me want to progress it to university level.

#### How do you motivate yourself?

I think of my next holiday (and the times when the kids have a light bulb moment!)

#### What is your No 1 secret for success?

Have a bank of resources or ideas ready. Don't be afraid to curb what it is you're doing if it isn't working out for that particular class.

#### What advice would you give a new teacher?

Top tip: never create a resource that takes longer than the actual task itself (unless you can reuse it again).

#### How do you look after your wellbeing?

I don't take work home with me during the week and I always try to have, at least, one night 'off'

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