**WLD Teaching and Learning Digest – w/c 23rd April 2018**

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| **COMMUNICATION FOCUSES** Do your Year 7s have reading books with them?Write key words for the lesson on the board…discuss them | **DYSLEXIA-FRIENDLY STRATEGY** Check the read age of texts used in class. Paste a paragraph into this calculator: <http://www.readabilityformulas.com/free-readability-formula-tests.php> |

**This week:**

* The **thought for the week** this week is **‘Poverty’ –** the materials try to show students that poverty is not something that only affects developing countries but those in our country too. I hope that the article prompts some discussion.
* **Preston Teaching Schools’ Alliance**: Trainee Teachers – meeting MC at lunch on Thursday.

**Teaching Approach of the Week – Try It!**

For this week, I am referring to our WLD *Teaching and Learning Toolkit* (distributed two weeks ago). Clearly, we want to ensure that all of our students make excellent progress. However, we are all specifically focusing on engaging boys so that they make exceptional progress – this is no surprise to us.

So for this week, think about the ‘Engaging Boys’ element of our *Toolkit* by focusing on using an element of **competition** in lessons. It may be something very subtle like providing students with success criteria with which to mark their work; each element of the criteria could have a score; they could then discuss their score with a partner. This is great for numeracy too… (I used this method and students used expanded brackets when working out...!).

This is also a good strategy for stretch and challenge as the trickier elements of the criteria could be given a higher score (as they are harder to include). For further information on why boys often like competition, read this article:

<http://www.slate.com/blogs/xx_factor/2013/05/17/boys_and_childhood_competition_are_kids_more_competitive_when_they_play.html>

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| http://www.slate.com/content/dam/slate/blogs/xx_factor/2013/05/17/boys_and_childhood_competition_are_kids_more_competitive_when_they_play/152741883.jpg.CROP.promo-large.jpg | [Boys and childhood competition: Are kids more competitive ...](http://www.slate.com/blogs/xx_factor/2013/05/17/boys_and_childhood_competition_are_kids_more_competitive_when_they_play.html)[www.slate.com](http://www.slate.com)Are Boys More Competitive Than Girls Because They Play in Groups? |

***Year 11 – Top Tips***

* Do they have good examples of how to answer exam question on your written papers?
* Are you giving them quick-quizzes as starters to test their knowledge?
* Remember to use Headteacher’s commendations to motivate where necessary.

**Recent Top Tips (abridged)… Keep using them if they worked!**

* **Black dot in a white square – focus on the positives**
* **We Are Reading! – offer lots of opportunities for students to read**
* **Show the and in stages…think out loud**
* **Verbal Feedback**
* **Because, but, so – extend sentences and thinking**
* **PIE FACES – Features of good writing**
* **‘Just a Minute’ and ‘Exam Wrappers’**
* **Retrieval Practice – questions from last lesson, last week and last term**
* **The ‘BIG Question’**
* **3B4ME – promoting independence**
* **WAGOLLs (what a good one looks like – use of model work)**
* **Pose, Pause, Pounce and Bounce**
* **Reading for understanding – mini-whiteboards, quick quizzes, verbal questioning, think-pair-share etc.**

**Top Tips in Two this Half-Term**

* ~~Monday 9~~~~th~~~~April –A. Christian – We Are Reading~~ – Many thanks!
* ~~Friday 13~~~~th~~~~April – D. Turner – Doddle Revision~~ - Postponed
* ~~Wednesday 18~~~~th~~~~April – G. Moore – revision strategy~~ Many thanks!
* Friday 27th April – A. Halsall
* Friday 4th May – D. Turner – Teams/365