**WLD Teaching and Learning Digest – w/c 26th February 2018**

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| **COMMUNICATION FOCUSES**  Promote wider reading: give students suggested magazine/newspaper articles, websites, books etc to read to complement classroom learning. | **DYSLEXIA-FRIENDLY STRATEGY**    Give ‘take up’ time – allow students to think before asking for them to comment |

It was great to see (hear!) lots of dice being rolled last week following Claire's 'Top Tip'!

**This week:**

* The thought for the week this week is **British Science Week (Launch) –** Please use the PPT and article emailed.  *Think about the Science around you and remember ‘The important thing is to never stop questioning.’ (Albert Einstein)*
* YEAR 11 – *revision timetable starts today.  Parents will also receive some ‘top tips’ to use alongside this timetable.*
* Heads up! – this Thursday morning, please come armed with one revision strategy that you are using with Year 11;  we can then do a ‘speed swap’ to share good practice.

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

Try using the ‘Because, but, so’ technique to allow your students to engage in more specific and focused thinking than just asking them to respond to an open-ended question. For example:

1. **Seeds need light to grow BECAUSE…**
2. **Seeds need light to grow, BUT…**
3. **Seeds need light to grow, SO…**

This can be adapted to suit any subject. This strategy not only boosts literacy levels (by making students extend sentences using conjunctions), but it also encourages students to think more deeply about the content of the sentence and extends their thinking.

To read more, click on the link:

<https://tomneedhamteach.wordpress.com/>

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| [https://s0.wp.com/i/blank.jpg](https://tomneedhamteach.wordpress.com/) | [TomNeedham – Thoughts about teaching](https://tomneedhamteach.wordpress.com/)  tomneedhamteach.wordpress.com  In my last post I tried to give an overview of the importance of teaching formal, academic vocabulary as well as how we approach it by mostly focussing on Tier 2 ... |

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

* **PIE FACES – Features of good writing**
* **‘Prepare to Teach’ and ‘Topic Ranking’**
* **‘Just a Minute’ and ‘Exam Wrappers’**
* **Retrieval Practice – questions from last lesson, last week and last term**
* **Presentation as an indirect way of enhancing progress**
* **Unlocking key words – discussing possible meanings**
* **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**

Scheduled in this half-term, we have:

* ~~Weds 21~~~~st~~ ~~Feb – C. Rowson~~
* **This week!** Thursday 1st Mar – All staff – Year 11 revision strategies swap
* **Next Week:** Thursday 8th March – D. Turner (Teams and 365)
* Thursday 15th March – S. Smith-Sergeant (mindfulness)
* Thurs 22nd March – R. Long

**CPD**

* Reminder - The Preston Schools Teaching Alliance is holding its annual Teaching and Learning Conference in April.  Please submit your interest to me by the end of the week.
* The T&L Think Tank meets tomorrow evening at Balshaws.  Thanks to those of you who have expressed an interest.  If you are interested, let me know.