**WLD Teaching and Learning Digest – w/c 30th April 2018**

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| **COMMUNICATION FOCUSES**    Year 7s should now all have reading books – refer to them if necessary. | **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>   |  | | --- | | [AUTOMATIC READABILITY CHECKER, a Free Readability Formula ...](http://www.readabilityformulas.com/free-readability-formula-tests.php)  [www.readabilityformulas.com](http://www.readabilityformulas.com)  Automatically grade your text with our free readability test tools! These 7 popular readability formulas will help you find the reading level and grade level of your materials and help you determine if your readers can read your materials. | |

**Are you referring to your toolkit? Please edit/amend…**

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**This week:**

* The **thought for the week** this week is **‘Christian Aid’ ahead of Christian Aid week in May –** the PPT contains an easy to understand explanation of the charity.
* **Preston Teaching Schools’ Alliance**: Trainee Teachers – meeting LG at lunch on Tuesday (topic: literacy).

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

For this week, I am referring to our WLD *Teaching and Learning Toolkit*. Last week, we focused on COMPETITION. This week, let’s link this to **structured** TEAMWORK.

KAGAN strategies have been used; however, I think ***well-organised*** group work (KAGAN or not) can be very effective in allowing students to make good progress. Reminder of the basics:

* Make sure that students have clearly defined roles so that the INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTS THE TEAM.
* Make sure that each role crucial for making the team successful; this will ensure involvement from all.

This article explores how boys and girls react to teamwork…worth a read.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/girls-better-boys-problem-solving-teams-work-together-skills-global-study-oecd-pisa-a8069241.html>

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| [https://static.independent.co.uk/s3fs-public/thumbnails/image/2014/06/21/18/p36pupilsGETTY.jpg](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/girls-better-boys-problem-solving-teams-work-together-skills-global-study-oecd-pisa-a8069241.html) | [Girls are better than boys at solving problems in teams ...](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/girls-better-boys-problem-solving-teams-work-together-skills-global-study-oecd-pisa-a8069241.html)  [www.independent.co.uk](http://www.independent.co.uk)  Girls are better than boys at problem-solving in teams, according to the world's first global study examining the skill. Analysts said the findings suggest girls are better equipped for the workplace and are more able to cope with modern ways of working. |

***Year 11 – Top Tips***

* Do they know their formulae?
* Do they know their quotations?
* How do we know? How can we check this?

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

* **Competition in lessons**
* **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 27~~~~th~~~~April – A. Halsall~~ Many thanks!
* Friday 4th May – D. Turner – Teams/365
* Friday 14th May – C. Rowson and K. McPartlan – knowledge retrieval
* Wednesday 23rd May – J. Mayor

**CPD Cascade**

MP and RW both recently attended the Preston Teaching Schools’ Alliance Teaching and Learning Conference and have kindly offered some quick feedback. They will provide more feedback at a 'Top Tip' soon.

**MP: ‘**The guest speaker, Mary Myatt, referred to the quote *'writing floats on a sea of talk'*. This has reinforced with me that monitored talk should be encouraged in a classroom and will develop literacy/numeracy skills further. This also really helps with the *teaching to the top* mentality as talking can act as a safety net for those who you don't see at the 'top' and consequently push them further than normal.’

**RW**: ‘I like the idea of all KS4 classes getting a past paper question at the beginning of the lesson - every subject.  They get it on the way in as a starter.  Doesn't have to be relevant to the topic being taught - this idea of revisiting.  Takes no more than 15 minutes of the lesson and allows you to revisit key vocab / formulae etc. as well as discuss key exam strategies.’