



We then progressed to talk about teaching styles before showing them what the 2014 Ofsted handbook suggests about the matter. Ofsted are no longer interested in the teaching style. Sir Michael Wilshire does not mind if there is no independent learning, he is not fussed if the lesson is primarily teacher led. Do whatever you like, on the condition that students are making progress. I welcome this news, and I think that will be the case for some of our staff who teach in a traditional manner and get excellent results, whilst at the same time ensuring that their pupils enjoy the subject.

There was a worry in previous years that lessons had to be all singing and all dancing to get the top grade. We teach in a great school with a variety of learners and trying to get all staff to teach in the same manner would destroy the individuality and at times eccentricity that makes our school so successful. In a recent survey eccentricity in teachers is what our students really respond to.

We then presented ideas about Vygotsky's Zone of proximal development and linked this to a revised version of Bloom's Taxonomy. We then discussed the science, the art and the craft of teaching a good lesson. I am sure many of the staff remember these models from their own training days or private reading but we felt it was really important to remind them. We then watched a 10 minute video of a lesson and attempted to see evidence of the science, art and craft of the lesson. We finished the group session by handing out details of the SMSC changes and how the 4 strands could be implemented within departments.

The staff then split off again in pairs and they planned their own "study lesson". In essence, this meant they planned a lesson together and arranged a time to observe each other teaching the lesson. In between both lessons they have the opportunity to discuss and then amend the lesson accordingly.

I planned an introductory lesson on Tourism with Andrew Zair. It was really enjoyable to plan a lesson together. Andrew observed me teach the lesson and I think he appreciated the opportunity to view another lesson but I found it really useful having him there to bounce ideas off. We then amended the lesson and I observed Andrew teach a far superior lesson. When discussing it at the end we were still not happy we have demonstrated enough evidence of progress, yet by the end of the discussion we felt that simple adjustments would make it a top standard lesson.

I am hopeful many of the other staff will enjoy a similar learning experience. Running the training was enjoyable but the actual study lesson was probably the most valuable aspect of the twilight session. I may have enjoyed it but the proof will be in the staff evaluation!