

## Guided Learning Blog

At my previous workplace I visited a primary school in Bicester. I was there to look at the potential for developing a curriculum link with a Rwandan School. However, whilst visiting I stumbled upon the idea of Guided Learning.

Guided Learning is an excellent way to cater for an individual's needs in a classroom environment. I think the best way to describe it is by using an example.

Example:

I would mark a set of Year 10 books, once I have completed the marking it is abundantly clear that 4 or 5 of the boys have not grasped the main concept of the lessons. So what options do I have? Previously, I would end up writing down lots of targets for the boys, often repeating myself and taking up plenty of time. I would then hand the books back and probably never even check whether the boys have even read my comments let alone learnt from them. Instead, what I would now do is hand the books out at the start of the lesson and get all the boys working on a task. I would then ask the 5 boys who had not grasped the subject to come and join me in a separate part of the classroom. I would then proceed to teach them the topic they had not previously understood. I would teach them in a different way to the previous day as I may not have catered for their best learning style 24 hours earlier. I would work with the group for possibly 10 minutes before returning them to the main activity. I might then ask to see the students who are working on the A/A\* borderline to explain to them what they need to be doing to access the top grade.

Once working with my guided group I do not wish to be disturbed. I therefore appoint two student experts whom boys are to ask for guidance from if they are struggling with the main activity. The difficulty is not working with the guided group but setting an activity which the rest of the class can get on with independently.

Guided learning could have a huge impact on student results at RGS. As a member of staff I really enjoy teaching the smaller groups and find it incredibly rewarding. In a school like ours boys can get on and work independently and therefore we have the opportunity to regularly use Guided Learning. Guided Learning goes on all the time at RGS, but it is often done at lunchtimes or during after school sessions. We should be able to give this individual support during lesson time. The primary school I mentioned at the start use Guided Learning for every English and Maths lesson. It has improved results. I am not suggesting we should be using this every lesson but I do think it should be part of our teacher's toolkit. Next time you are sat at your desk while the students are working, why not give Guided Learning a try.