

Teach like a Champion by Doug Lemov

This has been a fantastic read and with the accompanying DVD it has provided us with some excellent resources for CPD. Doug writes energetically about the everyday teaching world and what can be done to improve it. The book contains great ideas with the advantage of seeing these ideas executed in the classroom environment via the DVD.

The teachers demonstrating the strategies are all American and it is great to see a different teaching environment. All the teachers are clearly passionate and enthusiastic about their subject but more importantly about their students.

There are plenty of ideas which I have not shared with our staff but there are also many which deserve thought, here's a few:

- Cold calling (no hands up, hence anyone could be asked)
- Wait time (ensuring you give students the time to think before they need to respond)
- The trouble with asking "got it?" (everyone says "yes" whether they have or not)
- Instead ask targeted questions ("OK, let's make sure we're clear on the differences between plant and animal cells. Tim, what does the presence of a cell wall tell me about the cell I'm looking at? Jim, what cells have chloroplasts?")
- Tracking not monitoring (My narrative, "Mike's working hard. Good. Ben's working hard and nearly finished. Peter seems a bit stuck thought." Perhaps it should be, "OK Mike's found his evidence, Ben has used key statistics to support his points. Peter hasn't located his case study, must address...")
- No opt out (push students, don't let them get away with "I don't know!")
- Culture of error (allow students to feel comfortable to make errors, talk about "good mistakes")
- Right is right! (don't except an answer if it's not 100%, push the students to improve until you are fully satisfied)

A great read for any teacher!