

STIMULATING TEACHING PERFORMANCE

AUTUMN TERM 2009 NEWSLETTER



Think for the class

If you could take a pill that meant you would never fail, would you?

STARTER/PLENARY SUGGESTION

'Donk'

(basically 'Timmy Mallet's mallet')

This can be used as a starter or plenary.

- Pupils work in pairs or groups of three.
- They are given a topic word and the pupils have to say a related word. (for example, "Biology" "Lungs" "Heart" etc.
- No pauses and no repetitions or they get "Donked" (out of the game!)

Integrated@STP

The transition stage between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 has always been recognised as a period in which student performance drops. Schools are now looking to adopt a new *Integrated* initiative for year 7 in an attempt to bridge this gap; **STP have just embarked on this new and exciting approach.**

The *Integrated Curriculum* involves year 7 forms being taught a number of subjects (English, History, Geography, Religious Education and PSHE) by one teacher through a skill focused programme.

The experience offers students the opportunity to de-



velop and hone vital thinking skills that will encourage independent learning, allowing students to realise their potential.

Within STP, the *Integrated* team have created a scheme of work that will compliment and develop these skills within the curriculum, through the previously mentioned subjects.

A major focus is on making the student aware of **WHAT** type of

learner they are, and **HOW** best they learn.

A year 7 student who is involved in the integrated curriculum commented on his experience so far. "The extra time with our form tutor is really good. I think my tutor knows me better and understands how I best learn."

This is a key point, as one major benefit from having extending time with one teacher gives the student a form of support and understanding that is experienced in primary education. With KS2 to KS3 transition being notoriously linked to underachievement, the *Integrated Curriculum* could well be the answer to the transition question schools have searched to resolve.

Just DeBono it!

"Have you got your thinking hat on?" A phrase that can grace any classroom before or after a task. But is thinking just something we expect a student to be able to do? Or more significantly, be able to express their thinking clearly and effectively?

Very often, it can be a struggle to get a class or student to explore and develop ideas; enter Edward De Bono!

DeBono is responsible for developing a thinking tool that can be used for a wide variety of activities for creating, exploring and developing ideas; this is known as DeBono



Right: The creator Edward De Bono.

Left: The green thinking hat for new ideas or possibilities.

Hats (or six hats).

The Six Hat technique is designed to help individuals deliberately explore a variety of perspectives on a subject. By wearing a particular colour hat, students are able to take on a particular point of view. For instance, one could play the devil's advocate, focusing on the negatives and what is wrong.

DeBono Hats is by no means a new thinking strategy within the classroom, but it is certainly becoming known as one of the most effective devices invented for it.

Creating independent learners is a primary aim of schools today, and DeBono Hats can be instrumental in achieving it.

(PowerPoint explaining DeBono Hats is available on the integrated year 7 folder in the shared computer area.)