

Parrot Fashion

supporting young people in developing enterprise capability

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Progress! It is good to see QCA and others catching up and validating the methodology and thinking behind PET.

A recent publication called 'Generic Skills in Diploma Learning' from the QCA looks at Diplomas and talks about Personal Learning and Thinking Skills, it states

"Unlike functional skills, which are qualifications, PLTS are not specified in levels. The level of demand of the PLTS is determined by the context in which the skills are demonstrated - in other words, a combination of factors relating to:

- the complexity of the situation
- the demand and familiarity of the activity
- the level of independence needed in completing tasks and tackling problems"

This is what PET does and has done for 2 years. We are now working with LA Consortia that are looking to embed PLT Skills in the new diplomas.

To see the document in full, click on the link http://www.qca.org.uk/qca_20684.aspx

Best wishes

Amanda

PLT Skills Seminar

We are looking to run a series of Free Seminars in the Summer Term to talk about PLT Skills and demonstrate the PET PLT Skills Tool. PET enables schools to

- Plan a skills-based curriculum and monitor its implementation
- Evaluate the impact of the skill development activities
- Provide students with personalised portfolios of their achievement
- Promote rigorous self-assessment by students to inform future learning

If you would like to host a Seminar, or you would like to register your interest in attending one of our Seminars, then please contact me at marie.siford@perfecteducation.org.uk

Key Stage 3 - The Future

Firstly, the new national curriculum was streamlined, allowing teachers more freedom to decide what and how to teach. Then QCA introduced a framework for personal, learning and thinking skills to encourage schools to equip young people for their future lives. Next, SSAT and NCSL workshops up and down the country encouraged schools to create radically new curriculum structures at KS3.

And then the master stroke - no more SATS!

The major constraint on curriculum innovation is gone, opening the way for schools to design the KS3 their students really need. Whether you aim to create the next generation of enterprising young people, more effective learners or skilled future employees, the future looks bright.

What opportunities does the removal of SATS present? Here are just a few ideas.

- The aim of KS3 is no longer to sit a series of tests. See KS3 as what it should be; a preparation for KS4 and beyond. How does this affect your view of how KS3 learning should look?
- Why should KS3 take three years? For that matter, why should all subjects finish KS3 in the same amount of time? Free up your teachers to finish KS3 at the right time for the students, and start KS4



when they are ready; even if that is half way through the year.

- Why not make level 5 the 'graduation' level, where the student proves their readiness to start the KS4 programme of study? Extending this idea of graduation, what other skills and qualities will a KS3 graduate possess? How will you know when students have acquired these abilities and are ready to move on?
- What about making Year 9 the GCSE Foundation Year? Introduce some intensive skill development activity to prepare students for the challenge they will face in Year 10 and 11.

Whatever you decide, remember that skills-based learning is no soft option. Ensure you have a sound methodology, rigorous assessment approach and thorough management data to show the progress your students have made.

Have fun with your new found freedoms.

If you are launching PLT skills in your school we would like to hear from you. PET is looking for partner schools currently planning innovative approaches to skills delivery at KS3. Contact Marie at marie.siford@perfecteducation.org.uk or call her on 01635 500310.

PET PLT Skills - Year 7 Enrichment Day!

On a cold and wintery day in January the year 7 students at The Clere School in Hampshire took part in an enrichment day. The school had invited an outside company to come and run a series of activities with the students.

Mr Adrian Callaway, head of year 7 for The Clere School, decided to use the Personal Effectiveness Tool (PET) to capture the students learning from this activity. He could see that PET provided him with an effective way of recording the schools Personal, Thinking and Learning Skills (PLTS) activity and raising awareness of PLTS with the students.

Brief overview of activity

- Entire year 7 group of 145 students
- 29 groups of between 5 and 6 students working as teams
- Between 4 and 6 staff and teaching assistants assessing the students

How PET was used

- Lead teacher entered the activity on PET in the week before the activity
- Selected 8 of the skills from the QCA Personal, Learning and Thinking Skills framework to focus on for the activity.
- The students were allocated to the activity in their individual groups
- Assessment sheets for each group were produced
- Information sheet about the selected skills were printed off
- Assessment and Information sheets were given to the teachers and teaching assistants at the briefing session

Mr Adrian Callaway noticed that by using PET to assess the day, it made it easier for staff to engage with the students during the activity. He said "it is a good interactive tool"

The staff and teaching assistants had no problem in completing their assessment sheets. It gave them the opportunity to speak to students about what they were doing and be a valuable part of the day. At the end of the day the staff assessment of the students was entered into PET; to enter assessment on the whole group of 145 students took 45 minutes.

The students had been given an assembly on PET and the enrichment day the week before, this meant that the students responded well to the use of PET and were expecting to be assessed during the day. After the enrichment day all of the students spent time in ICT lessons completing their self assessment. This gave them the opportunity to evaluate their performance and compare their results with others.

The great thing about PET is that it is flexible and will work around how you want to assess the PLT Skills activity within your school.

Benefits of PET

- Allows you to plan your activities and view previous activities
- You can enter activities in advance
- Assess students as a whole group or split into individual groups
- Provides detailed information for staff to complete their assessment

- Builds up a picture of the students abilities over time
- Encourages students to reflect on activities and look for improvement
- Gives supporting teachers a valuable role and increases their awareness of the benefits of Personal, Learning and thinking Skills.

Now that you have read what The Clere have to say about PET visit our website www.petonline.org.uk and find out more about PET PLT Skills.

PET PLT Skills Version 2.1 - Testing is underway!

Personal Effectiveness Training Ltd has been busy visiting all of the schools who have signed up for the Testing of the PET PLT skills version 2.1. This new web based software takes into account the changes in the key stage 3 curriculum and the diplomas. There are 6 schools within the West Berkshire area who have agreed to test the software and provide us with feedback on how the tool performs.

Key points for PLT Skills in the School.

- Student driven self assessment of PLT Skills as and when the school/student require.
- Self assessment supplemented by peer to peer reward system.
- Progress and development visible and auditable via reporting and graphic display.
- Activity based staff assessment available for benchmarking and monitoring purposes.
- Embedding of PLT Skills and management of their own learning in students.

The tool was released to the schools in November for them to include as part of their PLT skills programme. The schools were all positive about PLT skills and how students can benefit from it and have approached the challenge in different ways, some have timetabled days when students undertake activities incorporating PLT Skills, while others are implementing PLT Skills into every lesson. Whichever way the schools have decided to deliver these skills, they are all very committed to its success.

Personal Effectiveness Training will be on hand while the schools are testing the PET PLT Skills version 2.1 software. We will be talking to the schools to get their initial feedback on the tool.

The PET PLT Skills version 2.1 will be launched on 1st April. If you would like to register your interest in PET PLT skills then email me at marie.siford@perfecteducation.org.uk

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