

# Parrot Fashion

supporting young people in developing enterprise capability

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October 2007

It's the start of the new school year, and in this month's issue of Parrot Fashion we're looking at practical ways to help you get up and running with PET. How would PET benefit your school? Well, have a look at the success factors identified by the NFER research. All of them apply to PET.

Not sure how to go about applying PET in your school? Find out how to kick start your enterprise programme here, and get some great ideas for using PET with a large group. This is the first part of a two-part article, so look out for more top tips next month. If you have colleagues who would like to know more about PET, why not pass this issue on to them?



Best wishes for the new term!

Amanda

## Results of the first phase of the NFER research

The National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) has been commissioned by the DCFS to complete a two-phase research programme into enterprise assessment. One of PET's flagship schools was delighted to be involved in phase one of the research. Download the outcomes by [clicking here](#).

The NFER report fully endorses PET's assessment methodology, whilst highlighting the other good work being undertaken by like-minds across the country.

The research has identified 10 success factors which appear key to a robust and effective assessment of enterprise capability:

1. An extensive and/or embedded enterprise programme
2. Staff and students committed to developing enterprise capability
3. A shared definition of enterprise capability outcomes
4. One or more enterprise assessment champions
5. Assessment used to support learning
6. Staff with the time and commitment to assess enterprise capability
7. Having an effective assessment tool
8. A range of people (students, peers, teachers) involved in the assessment process
9. A system to monitor students' progression in enterprise capability
10. Emphasis on the process, rather than the outcome, of assessment.

## Kick start your enterprise programme with PET

PET has been designed to drive your school's enterprise learning programme forward. It's not just an assessment tool. How can you use it to reinvigorate enterprise at your school?

- **Enterprise is what you can do, not what you know.** PET reinforces this message at every opportunity with teachers, who begin to realise that enterprise is about developing active, responsible young people. This is exactly the sort of student teachers want to teach and will result in your staff coming on board.
- **Schools tell us that PET clears up once and for all exactly what 'enterprise learning' is.** Has it been an uphill struggle to get your teachers to embed enterprise in the curriculum? If so, PET removes the most significant barrier – not knowing where to start.
- **The key features to get up and running are the 'Activity setup'** (where the teacher selects exactly which capabilities the activity will develop); and the 'Activity Levelling' tool (which asks the teacher to level the complexity of the activity against precise criteria). See the online user guide at [www.petonline.org.uk](http://www.petonline.org.uk) for more information on these features.
- **PET includes all subjects for key stages 3 to 5.** Identify key personnel (not just teachers!) to train on PET. Select people whose opinions are respected, have large social networks and are perceived as 'good teachers' or professionals by their peers.

They'll act as champions for PET, and for enterprise.

- **PET works best when it is used to reinforce developments already happening.** For example, introducing PET alongside a re-launched PSHE programme, or in conjunction with a KS3 skills based curriculum, ensures it's embedded in practice. Alternatively, begin by implementing PET to support off-timetable days, Gifted and Talented events or the alternative curriculum. Using PET in a targeted way will ensure a measured and sustainable rollout. It will also add rigorous assessment to new initiatives.
- **PET allows data to be collated which a paper-based assessment system cannot.** Look at the activities PET could be used for in your school.

When PET is up and running these are just some of the questions it'll answer: Are some capabilities overlooked in your enterprise programme? Which teachers use PET most? Are there opportunities for these teachers to disseminate practice to other staff? Does it follow that your older students experience more challenging activities? What does student feedback tell you about the effectiveness of your programme?

Gathering this information is vital in the process of continuously improving enterprise learning at your school.

Find out how PET can help you kick start your enterprise programme. Drop us an [email](#) or phone us on **01635 500 310**.

## How do You Use PET with a Large Group? Our Top Tips

PET works well for assessing the enterprise capabilities of small teams or large numbers, such as a year group. If you're considering using PET with a whole year group, perhaps as part of an off-timetable enterprise day, our top tips will help you make best use of the tool.

1. Set up the activity on PET well in advance of the event. This enables students to see what the day will involve – and helps build up a sense of anticipation.
2. If you set up the activity on PET separately for each group you'll be able to print off assessment sheets for particular groups. Just select the 'Use an existing activity' option on the teacher homepage, then search for the next group of students.
3. Remind students how to access their PET accounts, perhaps through an assembly or PSHE time.
4. Brief all the teachers and adults facilitating the event well. They need not be familiar with PET but should understand how to make judgements about the capabilities the students are showing, and how to record this information on the assessment form. Giving a task to supporting staff helps them feel more involved in the activity.
5. Print out the assessment sheets in advance of the event and include in a pack of information to staff. You may also want to copy elements of the user guide which explain the assessment process.

Look out for more tips for using PET in next month's issue of Parrot Fashion!

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