

Parrot Fashion

supporting young people in developing enterprise capability

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PET Creator Wins National Teaching Award

The creator and Product Development Director of PET has received national recognition for his work. In a televised ceremony, Matthew Evans was announced the recipient of the Enterprise Teacher of the Year at the National Teaching Awards on the 21st October. Earlier in the week Deborah Meaden of Dragons' Den visited The Forest School with a BBC crew, on the pretext of holding a Q and A session with Sixth Formers, part of a session of filming to be used at the ceremony. Matthew was genuinely surprised when she presented him with the award and delighted to share the moment with his students.



PET was unquestionably a major factor in Matthew's success and drew a great deal of interest from Teaching Awards judges. Head of Forest School Keith Quine, who nominated him for the award, praised the "pioneering software" and said "Matthew lives his vision and his work could conceivably influence the enterprise learning of a generation of British children – it is that revolutionary!" In fact Matthew is now reaching an international audience with the publication of an article in 'Snapshots', a SSAT quarterly magazine showcasing leadership and management from across the world.

So why not try PET for yourself. Sign up for the FREE TRIAL on our website. www.petonline.org.uk

Best wishes

Amanda

PET and the new National curriculum

The new National Curriculum has been launched and the eagle eyed among you will have noticed the clear references to enterprise and employability. No, not tucked away on page 126 but right up there in the aims of the curriculum! QCA calls for schools to develop *responsible citizens* as one of three key aims. This includes learners who;

- are well prepared for life and work
- are enterprising
- are able to work cooperatively with others

Reference is also made to the importance of developing creativity, resourcefulness, problem solving ability, communication skills, initiative and organisational skills. And the similarity to PET's comprehensive framework of enterprise capabilities doesn't stop there as QCA calls for learners who are 'willing to try new things and make the most of opportunity'.

Enterprise has been placed at the heart of our new National Curriculum which QCA states 'should inform all aspects of curriculum planning, teaching and learning at whole-school and subject levels'.

Those of you who have gone beyond the publications sent to schools and browsed the excellent supporting materials online at www.qca.org.uk might have also stumbled upon the 'framework for personal, learning and thinking skills'. This framework is designed to bring together the 'skills, behaviours and personal attributes' deemed 'essential to success in learning life and work'. The skills groups include 'Team workers', 'Creative thinkers', 'Self-managers' and 'Effective participators'.

Despite all this sound advice, what the new National Curriculum doesn't tell us is how to deliver, track and assess all of these essential skills. Fortunately, help is at hand.

How to win over those 'hard to reach' teachers

Are you having trouble convincing some of your teachers that enterprise is an invaluable addition to their teaching repertoire? You are not alone. Initiative overload, misconceptions and general over-work are all barriers to getting staff on board.

PET is designed specifically with these teachers in mind. It will support you in spreading enterprise throughout your curriculum by;

- Reinforcing the message that enterprise is about developing *pro-active, independent, creative learners*. Isn't that what every teacher dreams of?
- Making it simple for teachers to set up an enterprise activity and 'do their bit'
- Giving the teacher extra kudos by enabling students to score points, improve their skills profile, increase their status and access fun educational games to reinforce their learning
- Storing their past activity profiles for re-use, saving time and effort in the future
- Promoting collaborative learning which increases levels of student engagement and enjoyment of the curriculum

Rather than selling the benefits of enterprise yourself, why not ask teachers who have already benefited from their involvement to spread the word, perhaps at your next INSET day? Or try this activity;

1. Ask teachers to work in groups and identify what attributes, skills and knowledge the 'perfect' young person would leave your school with (perhaps ask them to draw and label this fictitious student for a bit of fun)
2. Ask the teachers to then consider how learning would *look* in a school which succeeded in developing such wonderful young people
3. As each group gives their feedback, highlight the attributes and skills identified that are associated with the concept of an *enterprising person*. Point to the learning activities which may be called *enterprise*.

By appealing to the core values of your teachers, then giving them the practical tools to deliver their vision, much of the cynicism and resistance will be removed.

Make Your Mark Challenge - November 2007

Over 500 schools have signed up for this years' Make your Mark National Challenge on 12th November. Schools are choosing to work with anything from a small number of teams up to whole year groups. Either way this has created a great opportunity for fully assessing the impact of this work through trialing the PET tool. Make Your Mark have endorsed the product by promoting the **two month free trial** to all participants on their website www.makeyourmarkchallenge.org

The free trial of PET will allow participating schools to effectively measure the impact of doing this challenge both by the students and the supporting teachers. It is hoped that as many schools as possible will sign up for this trial so that a picture can be measured of the effect of these challenges on the learning of our future workforce.

For more information on how to sign up for this free trial log on to www.petonline.org.uk or telephone 01635 500310.

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

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