

Parrot Fashion

supporting young people in developing enterprise capability

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June 2008

Thinking ahead to the new academic year we would like to encourage you to take some time to look at two options that could help implement effective assessment and mapping of both enterprise and personal learning and thinking skills. Please do investigate, perhaps set up the free trial for events in June or July ready for a September roll out.

There are more details about both options below and we are happy to answer any questions if needs be.

Best wishes

Amanda



PLT skills - lesson plans and assessment package

PET are delighted to announce the launch of *PET PLT Skills Edition*, the only tool on the market designed specifically to support schools in delivering and assessing the personal learning and thinking skills underpinning the new National Curriculum.

We've been talking to schools about their plans for curriculum redesign. There is some really exciting work going on, most notably the plans to introduce a strong **skills-based** element to the key stage 3 curriculum from September 2008. The QCA's framework for Personal, Learning and Thinking skills (PLT) has been warmly received by schools, looking to tie together recent initiatives such as learning to learn, thinking skills and enterprise.

PET PLT Skills Edition comes equipped with FREE lesson plans and resources for delivering PLT Skills across the curriculum. The tool 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

PET PLT Skills Edition can be tailored to the specific needs of your school, including;

- A **basic start-up package** for schools new to skills-based learning
- The ability to 'turn on' new features as and when needed
- 'Single year group' through to 'whole school' license options

If you are launching PLT skills in your school we would like to hear from you. PET are 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.

Are you missing out?

As a software tool, PET is still relatively young but we are finding that schools like what the tool can offer. We have had a good sign up for our free 90 day trial of the tool and schools then going on to purchase. Don't miss

out; you can register for a free trial at www.petonline.org.uk .

To date, there have been over 100 activities at which assessment has been done using PET, involving nearly 7000 students. This ranges from one off activities with small groups of students to large whole year groups activities of up to 300 students. We were recently invited by one of the schools to see PET in action and witness how well it worked. The tool offers great flexibility, enabling schools to produce assessment sheets for each of the groups of students. This was easy and quick to set up and allowed the teachers to focus on their group of students. A positive involvement for teachers and students.

Another school, Windsor Girls School in Berkshire, has approximately 700 students on role aged 13 to 18. They decided to purchase PET 6 months ago and these are the thoughts of one of the teachers who use PET. It is currently used in the business/ICT part of the school and the teachers record the activities that their option classes or year groups are working on. This is what Helen Story had to say.

"PET was welcomed by teachers in the department. The pupils have reacted well to PET and now some are asking to access the tool at the end of the lesson. We are planning to roll out the tool across the whole school next year. I would and have recommended the tool to other schools and the one piece of advice that I would give to any school is, to get the best out of the tool ensure that enough in-service training time is allocated."

To share your views of PET contact Marie at marie.siford@perfecteducation.org.uk

Question and Answer

Question

I would like to purchase PET and start using the tool gradually, what is the best and most cost effective way of doing this?

Answer

The tool is well thought-out so that you can have the flexibility to use the tool how you and your school want too. I agree that with any new software, (PET is very user friendly) you have to invest time in implementing and training staff.

The pricing is structured so that you are charged per year group. This means that you can purchase PET and use it with one year group for only £200 plus VAT per annum. You can add more year groups as when you feel able to and have had chance to witness for yourself how PET can benefit your school.

Full details of our pricing structure are listed on our website. www.petonline.org.uk .

Do you have a question about using PET, or about enterprise learning in general? Please email us on marie.siford@perfecteducation.org.uk

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

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