



Wessex NQT's

November 2019

A decorative background pattern consisting of a grid of blue circles on a darker blue background, located in the top right corner of the slide.

You made it!



Welcome to NQT year. Arguably, your hardest year. You no longer have your university brain and teaching brain to think about, but you do have to hone your craft and prep all your lessons and teach fulltime and keep up with admin and still be observed.

In my NQT year I wanted to:

- Focus on knowing my students and creating a supportive environment
- Have a greater focus on homework checking and setting regularly in advance
- Focus on differentiation in class (using menu tasks, coloured paper)
- Really learn my syllabus and lessons
- Make new resources to overhaul some lessons
- Ace my observations
- Continue my academic reading to keep up with research

Obviously... this is a lot.



Target: Stretch & Challenge



Extension task cards

Extension reading shelf

Be wise with seating - buddy system

Lots of terminology? Have students create a glossary and challenge to top end to go beyond the classroom content

Homework task: get them all to create a super hard quiz about our lesson content to try and trip up other members of the class. Use students' competitive nature to your advantage.



Extension question cards

Imagine the writer of the text was in the room. What would be your top 3 questions to ask them? How would that help your understanding?

Can you condense what you've just learnt into a 140 character tweet?

How have you coped with that last task? Is there anything you could improve on, or understand clearer? Could you have approached it a different way? How will you make sure you remember this concept?

Can you sum up that task into one sentence that something with no subject knowledge would understand?

How does what you've just done link to our topic? Are you confident you could apply this in an exam situation?

Do you understand what the writer is trying to achieve in this text? Is it effective? How are they achieving it?

Target: Accessibility

Ask the students: what do you need?

Vary coloured paper or use it for specific schemes of work which are colour coded

Have a spare stationary box in class

Put lesson content on GC so all can catch up on notes or refer back in lessons

Flipping can aid some - allows students to learn in their own environment and at their pace

Target: Creativity



Don't feel tied to a scheme of learning. Know you're going to be tired? Plan a 'hand's off' essay planning lesson on chromebooks. As long as it's exam focused it isn't a waste of their time.

Use playing cards to seat students in a random formation during a lesson. You may be surprised how they interact differently.

Plan with the long game in mind.

Have a bank of starters and plenaries to use if traffic is terrible or you didn't plan the lesson.

Target: Engage learners



Be inventive

If you can't be inventive, fake it. Be enthusiastic instead.

Rap on tables, make them stand until they answer a question, patrol always, speak very loudly near them when asleep.

Make it relevant. Use the news and current events to ensure the content relates to the current situation.

New Target: Survival



It does get easier. You will know your spec, your exam board, your lessons.

Take up any and all CPD offers - they deepen or confirm your knowledge (and provide an opportunity to set cover)

Use your lunch break to actually eat

Observations are helpful

Personalise your space. It makes 4 lessons back to back more bearable. Plants and colour are engaging to the eye and create a good work space.



Time saving tricks



Write the name of missing students on the top of the sheet they missed during lessons

Keep a tray of spare sheets in class, labelled by spec/class

Have a bank of plenaries for use across all classes

Get students to create quizzes for use as starter activities

Use google classroom for extension work and organising assignments

Outline to students how long a homework task should take, so they don't waste too much time.

Send absence emails in lesson and have a template that you can easily use.

Use pre-made mover cards (or playing cards) to mix up seating





Plenary bank

Come up with 3 questions you have about something you've learnt today. Write them on a sheet of paper, we will answer these next lesson.

Summarise today's lesson into one sentence.

Rate your understanding of today's lesson. Rate your progress since day 1.

Come up with a 140 character tweet about today's lesson.

How confident are you with today's lesson content? How can you be more confident?

Rip out a blank page and write a question you have about today's lesson. Turn this into a plane and throw it into the (box/bin) for answering next lesson.

Exit cards - write on the post-it something you need more help with about today's lesson

Google a picture that summarises the day's lesson and post it on classroom before you leave.

Could you have approached your learning differently today?

Workload

Be savvy with marking. Highlight where they are on the mark scheme or devise a target tick sheet which may cut down on time.

For feedback lessons have a base format of feedback lesson that you can use again and adapt. Plus some form of reflective document for students to refer back to so they understand if they are getting the same feedback.

Pastoral

How to close a conversation when you really need a wee:

Repeat what you've already said as a closing statement

Don't say you don't have time. Ensure they know you are unqualified as a counsellor. Someone else will help them and you will ensure that is done.

Do ask them to email it to you if you run out of time before a lesson

Use closed body language and deepen your tone

Use very clear instructions that the student needs to follow and ask them to report back once they are done

Don't allow them to use up all of your time, it is precious.

To- do lists



The job will stretch to as much as you want to give it. You need to ensure you have balance.

Make a to do list in two columns: personal and work.

Next, how long will each task actually take you. Write this next to it.

Finally, which task has the highest priority? Add numbers for priority next to it.

You now have a to do list in order and with time frames worked out, so you can know what you can actually achieve in a day.

Google

All of these slides were quickly styled using the 'Explore' tool on google slides - which allows you to quickly make fancier looking, more professional slides in seconds.

And nothing can ever get lost in google with autosave. Always a lifesaver.

Good luck

The long, dark autumn and winter terms are the worst.

Next year WILL be better.

You will grow and improve every single day without knowing it.