How to teach effectively online

Online teaching and home learning has become the norm for the time being. Teachers are having to provide the same high standard of learning to pupils as they would in a classroom. It's difficult at times to feel inspired to come up with fun and interesting lesson ideas, especially when you can't be with your pupils in person.

Here are some helpful tips on how to teach effectively online:

Familiarise yourself with software

Take time to familiarise yourself with the software you will be using to teach. Expect a possibility for technology to fail and make sure you have a backup plan if the video chat has difficulties connecting, or if pupils are unable to upload assignments.

It's also important to make sure pupils can easily contact you outside of lesson times by utilising online communication methods such as discussion boards, emails, announcements and forums. Outline due dates for assessments and set expectations for how much online participation you require from your pupils.

'Remind' is a great application built for education. Teachers can easily communicate with students and their parents https://www.remind.com/

Encourage pupil interaction

At the beginning of a lesson, let the pupils greet each other as this is something they are missing during times like this. Encouraging interaction is great for wellbeing purposes and for pupils to virtually socialise with each other.

Use interactive learning games

Incorporating interactive games into lesson can help to keep pupils engaged. Using platforms such as 'Kahoot!' and 'Mentimeter' is great for quizzing pupils on what they have learned in previous lessons.

A mix of group and individual work is the best way for learning success. It's important to enhance pupil's learning capabilities by delivering a lesson which is suitable for a variety of learning styles.

Create visual presentation slides

Teachers have the option to share their screen and use presentation slides in their online lessons. Have presentation slides prepared for every lesson and make the instructions easy to understand. This is a new method of learning for pupils and it's vital to keep it simple as possible.

Utilise breakout rooms

Take advantage of breakout rooms for students to discuss in groups and to present their findings back to the rest of the class. This breaks up the lesson and helps students to engage with each other. It's also possible for teachers to enter breakout rooms to monitor the students' participation to the lesson.

It's important to take short breaks especially if the lesson is longer than usual. Ensure pupils get a chance to look away from the screen on a regular basis.

Use relevant resources

Provide your students with a variety of relevant and accessible resources that are available online, such as digital publications and online videos. They'll feel more engaged with the content since they are already on their computers for online learning.

Ask for feedback

After a few weeks of online teaching, teachers should ask their pupils for honest feedback on how they are finding the new way of learning. Ask your pupils about the learning content and your teaching methods and if there are any areas that require improvement. This can be in the format of a survey or posted on a discussion board.

Incorporating these elements into your online teaching methods will provide supportive learning for your pupils, as well as making your job easier.

Useful applications:

- o **Remind:** Communicate and update students with information
  https://www.remind.com/
- o **Kahoot!:** Quizzing application for student motivation
  https://kahoot.com/home/mobile-app/
- o **Mentimeter:** Quizzing application for student motivation
  https://www.mentimeter.com/

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