

These things were suggested from co-ordinators attending meeting Autumn 2015

Useful Websites

www.amazingbrains.ie (expensive but worth it)

<http://cogsthebrainshop.ie/>

<https://www.superteacherworksheets.com/>

Useful resources/companies

New JCSP French book

Wobbly circus. 450 to come in to students. Based in youghal. Clowning and miming. Excellent

Author in residence. Martin Brennan author of the Hauishams Trilogy (Pen name = Edward Crane) 0857825579. Connects well with the students.

Class Magic:

- increase numeracy skills via teaching of simple maths through malice

Leon Anderson- professional magician- researched the benefits of teaching simple magic tricks to autistic students

@MAGICIANLEON

Tips on Literacy Initiatives:

1. Reading corners. Set in heart of school, make it visible. Lots of posters, where kids want to go. Display students work, colourful. Moving shelves if possible works well. Beanbags... For and against. Handy if you don't have a library space for movement. Access is NB. Have someone in charge so it's open to students when they need it. Stock needs to be what students are interested in. Displaying stock, books should be facing out....won't take books if they're squashed together. Match magazine popular
2. Keyword notebooks. Got a bit tired, needed to be updated. 5 subjects, 5 keywords for month of September. Got meaning of words and learn how to spell words. Used superteacher website to develop worksheets. Phase 2. Each department to come up with 50 keywords need to know by end of year. 20 checked at xmas time. 30 after xmas... 5 keywords per subject per month. Include keyword section in Christmas Tests. Ties in with deis and targets across the whole school.
3. Integration of keywords. Collect keywords from different departments. Words used as part of spelling bee competition.

4. Keyword initiative – selected 3 subjects, keyword notebook to students. Every 6 weeks subjects change. Also using visual verbal squares from pdst website put up on overhead projector. Mid term tests on keywords. Every teacher has to put labelled keyword section on their test. Links in with Literacy target in DEIS plan. Having separate section and evaluating keywords separately has improved results for students.
5. Notice board of interesting/daft article from journal.ie and Irish times. Can photocopy them every week and students will read them during the day.
6. Stories from the classroom very popular. Good feedback from teachers. Encourages group work.
7. Literacy ladder. If students are producing a piece of writing what are the steps they take? Drop everything and teach where principal announces it over the intercom and every teacher drops everything and teaches the literacy ladder. Another school give targets... eg have you put in a full stop.
8. Oral literacy: teachers came up with list of how to access oral literacy. This template is going to be used where every teacher will assess at least one aspect of their curriculum through oral literacy.
9. Target reading. 20minutes per day for 5 days = success. Journals can have reading targets and tracking for reading. Parents have to sign it. 100% poster. They get their name up on the poster. Can link in with accelerated reader. Better readers have bigger targets.... Differentiation.
10. Book in a bag. Problems creating opportunity for students to read the book. Looked at how you could do it in school. Hit different subjects where students read for 15 minutes 3 times a week. Need whole staff buy in.
11. Used NGRT to test students in reading- there had been a gap of 5/6 yrs between RA and chronological age-What did the data actually tell us??? The data was shared with staff and it made it explicit to all staff that there were student needs across the whole group of students, not just isolated to a handful of SEN student.
 - .Established a DEIS core groups- principal was also on board,
 - Data gathered and SMART targets set- all shared with staff.
 - Also communicated to staff the skills that students did and didn't have.
 - DEIS targets and all interventions were in agenda of every staff meeting,
 - JCSP is at the heart of everything.
 - Departments were all asked to incorporate the targets into their own department plans.
 - Target- that every student score in sentence completion I prove by .5 of a step score- everyone would move to the right.
 - Whole school approach through agreed initiatives- DEAR, keywords, KWL,

red read board

There was a mixed reaction to the Initiatives, etc BUT after re- testing, the bottom line had improved- reading ages went up!!

Red Board/ red red wall was hugely successful

Apps and websites and tools that support literacy included in the homework journal
Success feed success!!

Tips/ideas on Numeracy

Maths dice for numeracy. 12.99 in cogs.

Football maths... Irish stadiums and players from axis education.

Maths apps though handheld gaming devices initiative.
ixl maths app is very good, can play it online too.

Maths Jeopardy

Maths department came up with their own ladder... eg Maths Must ladder. (Success criteria, AFL)

Numeracy tshirts. Eg geography has t-shirts with coordination of the school.

Quirkle boards game.

Numeracy Week

- Paired maths table quiz- 1st and 4th yrs - happens everyday, very simple but effective - includes lots of visual questions, etc
- Maths song- One Direction
- Numeracy Orienteering- cross curricular skills - when they find the control, they come back and do a maths question (using cross and flow sums) - differentiated using more accessible sums
- Countdown- ten minutes at end of class during maths week
- Magic Maths- Leon
- Bingo games in language classes- she provided them with the info and asked if they could do it in French/ Irish
- Morning brain teasers- given out each am at assembly and corrected by TYs
- Parents- brain teaser goes home, prizes for parents
- Friday after no- VIPs invited to attend- prizes, including books, cinema tickets

Ideas for Celebrations:

Summer initiatives. Give 3rd years pens n pencils for exam.

Extensive survey with teachers around the students. Personal profile on each student and citation on good points. Given out at celebrations at xmas and summer. Can laminate what's said about them and maybe even a picture. Love the affirmation.

Class poster and get it laminate. Make the ceremony about them.

Summer celebration. Personalised shirts presented along with the profile.

Class motto on all tshirts with different butterflies/symbols to represent the students personality. Huge success with students. One student got into the tech based on his JCSP portfolio, didn't have to wait for JC results. 2 on to mainstream both doing stem subjects. JCSP evaluation sheet where students evaluate the programme and how they feel about it.

Other Initiatives

For Study Skills; Learning to learning period of the week. Organisational, check list for night before, timetable colour coded. Goals in subject, weaker areas, revision plans for tests, smart targets. Where should I sit if I want to get the best out of my class. Learning to learn tool kit put together to suit Irish context. Using JCSP study skills statements. Students had difficulty in summarising. Did sessions on graphic organisers and writing summary from that. Techniques to remember and learn things. Facilities SIP.

Students disappointed after mocks. Did careers and study skills initiative with the students. Look at different careers and the skills required.. Students saw that it's not all necessarily all academic.

Gardening initiative. Used poly tunnel. Grew herbs and donated them to HE department. Grew window boxes, planted flowers, trees etc. Linked to numeracy by figuring out what to buy with in budget. Literacy was covered by keeping a gardening diary.

Film making as cross curricular. 10 week initiative. School completion, JCSP work together. Gary McCarthy came in during mental health and they worked on rap around that theme. Neil Brown helped them make the film. Very positive experience and attendance has improved.

Creative after school club. Jaffas.. . Film awards for making films. Awards on in lighthouse cinema Dublin. Will be advertised later in the year on lighthouse website.

Use themes for make a book, initiatives and cross curricular. Theme of identity and linked most of initiatives to them. Eg made guitars and each one individualised eg true colours or fishing. Book guns of Easter linking to English, science, art, history. Gives out ideas to each subject department and see what they come back with.

History/Art: 1916 Sackville Street provides Individuals, Youth Groups and Secondary Schools an opportunity to remember the ordinary civilians that died in the

Easter Rising through Art. The aim of the Project is to hold an exhibition of 262 'Houses' in any 3D art form to commemorate and celebrate the 262 lives of the ordinary civilians that were killed in the Rising. In four easy steps you can;

1. Register and select a civilian on www.1916sackvillestreet.com.
2. Research for information on that civilian for inspiration for your house.
3. Design your 'House'.
4. Make the 'House' and finally exhibit it in the exhibition.

JCSP Inspection: One school's experience:

- Question on initial form that asks about teacher engagement with CPD relating to the programme
- Commented on the visible presence of JCSP within the school- notice boards, on website etc...
- Use of statements in the classroom- spoke to students for an hour-
- Focus on cross curricular statements
- Initiatives- she didn't want same ones running each year, rotate them, and wanted different teachers anchoring them in order to embed it
- Spoke of one teacher at length and how she used the statements- this teacher picked the learning targets from the statements and used those as the learning intentions at start of class 'you can't go wrong with those, they're straight out of the department'
- Commended links with parents- postcards, etc
- Asked kids if they received postcards
- Wanted rationale for exclusion of students- was sticky on it- was satisfied with their reasoning for having all students into it, as it would segregate them otherwise
- Her recommendations include management of profiling- recommended using a Google doc that all teachers could feed into
- Was critical of lack of student folders- individual teachers keep them themselves - she felt students should have them so that students can look back on work, good for self esteem etc and she recommended Eportfolios
- 25% of schools she visits she does return to to follow up
- Liked keywords and keyword notebooks, DEAR, red read wall and ICT use
- Statements: the students do it themselves, she wanted to know if they could do it by themselves,