

Pupil evaluation of the Opening Minds Competencies

Rona Taylor, Liz Pyne

Self-evaluation is necessary for all students but also a skill which students find difficult. A series of ideas have been used to enable Year 7 students to evaluate their performance against the five competencies within Opening Minds.

Opening Minds aims to teach students via five competences: Citizenship, Learning, Information, People and Situations (CLIPS). Throughout Year 7 students are asked to evaluate their competencies. Teachers spend time during each lesson emphasising CLIPS (especially during starters and plenaries.) We wanted to experiment with a series of activities which would make the process of self-evaluation easier for the students and in turn allow the students to recognize the progress they are make.

A different activity was chosen for each half term. Students are made aware of the research which was being undertaken and at all times were asked to comment on the suitability/ease of the task being set.

- Self-evaluation via writing/target setting – this involved students completing an Opening Minds CLIPS worksheet
- Self-evaluation via listening/target setting – this involved students listening to each other and recording each other's evaluation
- Self-evaluation via card sort – this involved the use of 'bricks' which were completed after each lesson and displayed in the classroom. Card sort activity suited the kinesthetic learner
- Self-evaluation via the Opening Minds 'wheel' – this involved students completing a very visual reminder of their achievements
- Self-evaluation via 'traffic lights' – students were asked to assess their competencies using red/amber/green
- Self-evaluation via the Opening Minds Passport – this involved students gathering their achievements every week and recording it in a passport as a record.

- Students found remembering their achievements/competencies difficult. Thus those activities taking place as a 'recap' lesson at the end of the half term were less well received.
- Students liked recording their competencies on a lesson by lesson basis. This made the use of CLIPS more relevant and students had an appreciation of their current achievements and how they needed to move forward.
- The 'bricks' and Passport activities provided the most positive experience for the students.

References

Opening Minds is run by RSA.



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