



Falcons School for Girls

Frog - the ideal tool!





INTRODUCTION

The challenge facing schools following the changes to the curriculum and exams, is how to balance acquisition of knowledge with creativity. Engaging activities that develop pupils' capabilities and creativity is key. Knowledge acquisition is vital – but knowledge acquisition activities need to be engaging in their own right.

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Most teachers adopt a balance between skills and knowledge acquisition, but how we do this needs to be made more explicit. The process that is working for us at the Falcons School is starting with knowledge acquisition, progressing to questions and challenges around this knowledge, and then applying what we've learnt in more creative and imaginative tasks. In other words, start each unit with traditional, didactic methods; finish with 'progressive', independent tasks.

Using games to check student knowledge

FrogPlay is a great tool for setting low – or no – stakes quizzes to ensure that knowledge is retained. For the pupils, the quizzing tool makes the knowledge acquisition process fun and enjoyable; the quiz is a 'game', not a 'test'.

Training our teachers

We focus our training on the teachers who are in the middle when it comes to using technology: not those most attracted to using technology, but those who want to see pages that present their subject knowledge clearly and accessibly.

Changing the culture of teaching is a long, slow job, so we start with tackling teachers' workload, then we provide a simple structure in Frog that they can use to present the key knowledge goals that they need the pupils to know and understand. We can also capture things that happen in the classroom to create the memory links that help students retain knowledge. For example, videoing pupils engaging in memorable learning activities brings back the linked knowledge.

Transferring to long term memory

To learn, students must transfer information from working memory to long-term memory. However, we know that our limited working memory capacities can be easily overwhelmed by tasks that are cognitively too demanding. In other words, we need to ensure that knowledge must be stored in the long-term memory. Frog can help you do it.



frog

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