

Guide to the Interactive Zone and Research Café

The interactive zone will give you a chance to try out engaging learning tools and resources based on high quality research evidence. The resources are designed to stimulate and support professional discussion between practitioners in response to intriguing research findings linked to benefits for teachers and their pupils. They are embedded in a range of contexts and materials. The tools range from research tasters that structure mini enquiries, through to quizzes and matching activities to solving ‘mysteries’.

You will be able to find out more about the resources on the NTRP website. What’s more if you enjoy using these tools and think your colleagues will find them useful you will be able to pick up the links to source the protocols and resources for use in staff meetings and in CPD sessions.

Evidence activities – the detail

Understanding how to structure learning: Interested in knowing more about how learning really works for young people? This activity helps you explore 9 key findings from the work of Lev Vygotsky, a prominent researcher and thinker, and consider which findings are most important for taking the learning of your pupils forward.

Pupil grouping strategies: This mystery will help you:

- engage in a wide-ranging discussion of evidence about different ways of grouping pupils, including evidence from the pupils’ own perspectives; and
- help you formulate probing questions you can use to interrogate a practitioner-friendly summary of the research.

Assessment for learning: This activity will help you:

- deepen your understanding of assessment for learning;
- connect your understanding with what is known already;
- explore relative priorities with a range of practitioners; and
- begin to explore possible implications for your pupils’ learning.

Parental involvement in their children’s learning: This quiz is designed to help you work with colleagues to access the key messages from research about parental involvement in pupils’ learning. It will also help you to plan how to build upon the important role parents can play in their child’s development, especially in younger years.

Understanding different levels of talk: This activity is designed to help you and colleagues use research evidence to identify and match different kinds of teacher talk to different purposes (e.g. assessing pupils’ previous knowledge and helping pupils to make connections with previous learning).

Effective talk – common patterns: This activity is designed to help you use evidence to identify common and effective patterns in teachers’ talk.

Gifted and talented mystery: This activity will help you interrogate the findings of the research about the learning of gifted and talented students. It involves you exploring a variety of perspectives whilst trying to answer an overarching question in partnership with colleagues.

Mentoring and coaching principles matching activity: This workshop tool is a warm-up activity for groups of colleagues to use to share ideas about effective mentoring and coaching whilst exploring 10 evidence-based principles.

Research tasters: These are manageable, practical and engaging tools to help you use intriguing nuggets of research evidence to analyse how your students experience different aspects of learning now and to plan mini coaching or enquiry cycles to use the evidence to try out new approaches. Ranging from assessment for learning and group work to pupil voice and subject knowledge, a selection of tasters will be available for you to choose from - and weblinks so you can find out more and access the full range of over 300 tasters. Relevant to a wide range of phases of education – and adaptable to even more, tasters offer a great way of personalising adult professional learning.

Other activities include:

Living books: Key colleagues will offer personal narratives about their approach to using research and evidence in their roles as e.g. a senior civil servant, a researcher, a research interested NQT or an AST or headteacher. Listen to their stories and then make your own contribution to this chapter in their professional lives with your comments and questions.

Practitioners' question time: This hot-seat activity is an open-ended question and answer session in which you will be able to table questions for named researchers and policy makers. Post your questions throughout the morning and they will be answered live during the afternoon. Following the conference, questions and answers will be available on the NTRP website.

Evidence-based tools: Explore these focus group/pupil voice activities for gathering students' perspectives on the curriculum - i. practical activities and problem solving; ii. student responses to change, support and practical experiences; and iii. student experiences in relation to health, exercise, risk and aspirations.

How does the research café operate?

The research café will be located in the Mountbatten Lounge on the 5th floor. It is an informal area for discussion and table activities designed to enable you to engage actively with each other and with evidence and for as long as you wish.

Four tables will be hosted and offer a range of activities including:

- conversations about creative learning hosted by CapeUK;
- focus groups hosted by CUREE and NTRP for The Research Informed Practice website, *Inside Information* – the research bulletin for teachers by teachers, *Inside Evidence* - the new evidence bulletin for the learning and skills sector, and the opportunity to try out brand new practitioner-friendly research tasters for the learning and skills sector; and
- practitioners' questions and surgery sessions hosted by NTRP.

Surgery sessions: Wrestling with whole school approaches to leading teacher research? Tackling practical and methodological problems regarding research in schools? Drop in to a surgery session with TLRP colleagues and Panel members.

'Would like to meet': Noticed someone attending that you always wanted to meet? Found someone on the attendance list working at a school where you used to work? Or simply looking to catch up with a researcher from a workshop you had to miss? Post a message here in advance of the conference if you want to meet a researcher or someone else attending the conference. The Panel and TLRP colleagues will do their best to locate the person you are looking for and let you know when/if they can be available in the café. *Leave your email address too just in case your target can't make that slot.*

Research networks map: The networks map is a visual record of the research links that we're building around the country. Take this opportunity to find out who's who in your region and add details to the map.