

WEEKLY BULLETIN

 John Ferneley College

• 28th March 2025 - Issue 99



Staff training this week

Dear parents/carers,

Another busy week comes to an end and as usual there have been a number of activities going on that are worth updating parents and carers on. This week we have had students taking part in a Choral competition (more on this later in the newsletter, we've hosted a Primary school basketball tournament and we were pleased to welcome so many Y5/6 students to the Media transition event last night.

I would like to spend the majority of this bulletin giving you all an update on important developments concerning the work we have been doing to create and implement a much clearer and more consistent whole school approach to teaching and learning. I have referred in the past to the fact that the very best schools have a real teaching and learning 'identity' that means when you walk into any classroom you can see from the shape and structure of lessons what that identity is. We have called creating our identity the 'JFC Way' and again, as I have communicated in the past, this is very much based around the work of Barak Rosenshine, an American educational researcher. His study of successful teaching led to the creation of what are referred to as 'Rosenshine's Principles of Instruction' and they are incredibly popular in schools worldwide. I would urge any interested parent or carer to read more about this here:

<https://www.aft.org/sites/default/files/Rosenshine.pdf>

The reason these principles are so popular in schools is simple. They are consistent. They are clear. They work. After introducing 'The JFC Way' in the summer term of 2024, much of our training sessions with staff this year has been around successfully implementing it across the whole school. You can see in this bulletin some pictures of the training session we ran this week, which was centred on specific strategies, activities and outcomes for the principles of 'guiding student practice,' 'obtaining a high success rate' and 'independent practice.'

This work goes on and will be a priority for the remainder of this academic year, for next year and beyond, because as we also know, any successful school always invests time and energy in constantly reviewing and improving the quality of teaching and learning on offer.

I hope everyone is able to enjoy the weekend.

Mr Claridge
Headteacher



'You establish what you establish' EMBEDDED LEARNING ROUTINES

Consistently high expectations of learning for all, all of the time. Expectations, in line with the whole school policy are explicitly taught, clearly communicated and positively framed. Learning routines are established and reinforced periodically to ensure an optimum learning environment is sustained. Learners become increasingly self-regulatory and independent, and are encouraged to frequently reflect on their learning.

'Memory is the residue of thought' RETRIEVAL PRACTICE

To boost learning, students are asked to engage with retrieval practice. By pulling information out of students' heads, they are forced to think. Thinking - and struggling to remember - initiates desirable difficulties, which improves learning and the learners' ability to remember. Retrieval practice means students are forced to remember. The more this happens, the more they will remember and learn. Retrieval practice also helps students to understand what they don't know.

'I do, we do, you do' EXPLICIT INSTRUCTION

Information is presented to learners in small chunks and then demonstrated, explained and modelled. Time is devoted to explaining the challenges, pitfalls and common misconceptions when new learning material is presented. Guided practice is invested in as learners grow in confidence. Thinking and making connections is clearly articulated to learners, providing examples and showcasing metacognitive talk. Expert teachers communicate carefully, planning explanations and reinforcing clarity with carefully curated resources and visuals to aid memory.

SCAFFOLDING

Learners are supported to reach ambitious goals through guidance and support in tune with their confidence and learning needs. Scaffolding is removed at an appropriate time, decided after expert assessment for learning.

CIRCULATING ACTIVELY

... and purposefully to check for success and understanding, live marking. Reading and checking student work.

QUESTIONING ?

A range of effective questioning is used whilst circulating and assessing work. Cold call is used to ensure all students are thinking and to assess learning and understanding. Process questions are used to ensure students are articulating their thinking. Hinge questions are used to inform the lesson; re-teach or move on.

'Securing higher success rates'

DELIBERATE PRACTICE

For students to learn material effectively, they are given time for guided, deliberate and sustained practice, that includes a high success rate, and that increasingly develops to a position of independence. This process is planned carefully, allowing students to secure success. Practice thereafter is spaced, and curricula are interleaved to enhance student learning.

'Moving learning forward'

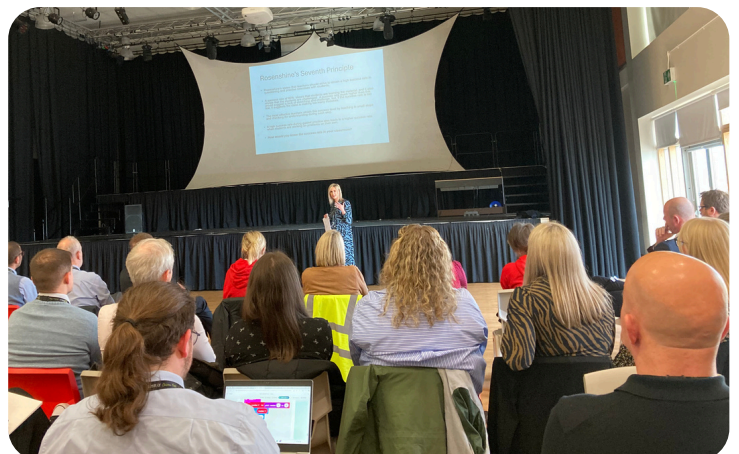
FEEDBACK

Playing a central role in securing student learning by providing time to reflect on learning, deepen understanding and improve performance, feedback focuses on describing actions to improve in the future. Both verbal and written feedback to learners is positive and specific, and provides students with instructions to act. Feedback addresses errors or misconceptions, is relevant on an individual level and encourages a metacognitive approach as students grow in confidence and become increasingly independent. Students change their approach, increase their understanding or adapt their ideas following feedback. Students close learning gaps and improve their work following feedback. Feedback is important for the teacher and the student.

'Fundamental to success in school and beyond'

LITERACY

Our students are explicitly taught disciplinary literacy. Every teacher is a teacher of literacy. Vocabulary, reading, writing and oracy skills are planned for and taught both generally and from a subject specific perspective.



KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



April 2025

- *HPV vaccines Y8+ - Wednesday 2nd April*
- *Spring concert - Thursday 3rd April - Auditorium (information on tickets later in the newsletter)*
- *Year 8 Parents Evening - Wednesday 9th April*
- *End of Term - Thursday 10th April 2025*
- *Inset Day - 11th April 2025 - no students on-site*
- *Term begins - Monday 28th April 2025 - all year groups back on this day*

College Open Events

JFC
FUTURES

- SMB Brooksby Campus – land based and agriculture open day – 5th April – 10am-1pm
- Grantham college – 30th April – 5.30-7pm
- If you are interested in attending any of these please look on the college website for more information and to register attendance

MUSIC NEWSLETTER



Our school musicians have been very busy recently. Our GCSE student had an amazing opportunity to visit the opera in Nottingham. Students relished the opportunity to immerse themselves in a different genre and this experience has helped them back in the class room. Our vox/showchoir attended a workshop which led to a concert on the 17th March. Whilst it was a long day of learning and rehearsal their performance in the evening was outstanding and they were commended on their effort and enthusiasm.



Music at
JFC

Choral Finals

On Tuesday 25th March our students took part in a Leicestershire Schools competition at De Montfort Hall. Students performed two songs "Africa" and "One Short Day" from Wicked. Our performers were highly commended and we are so proud of their efforts and professionalism. Mr Oshungbure enjoyed the performance very much and has been heard singing the songs around school all week! Huge well done to you all.



Following on from our music newsletter, we have our Spring performing arts showcase next Thursday 3rd April. Tickets are currently for sale on School Gateway, £3 per person, you can pay for as many tickets as you like! Come and see our amazingly talented students on stage



JFC Performing arts presents.....

Spring Concert

Thursday 3rd April

7pm

Tickets on Sale now!