**HANDOUT: ACTIVE LEARNING**

Slide 4: Three benefits of active learning?

1. Active learning helps students to become 'lifelong learners'
2. Active learning encourages success
3. Active learning is engaging and intellectually exciting

Slide 6: An active learning checklist

* What do the students in my class need to learn?   
  How will the task that I have chosen help my students to learn?
* How am I using questioning?   
  How far am I creating a positive classroom environment where it’s fine to take learning risks?
* If I need to focus on content, can I encourage the development of a skill at the same time?
* How will I present the task to the students?   
  How will I know that every child in my class has learned and made progress?

***"...put the student and the learning at the centre of your planning”.***

All active learning tasks tend to focus on encouraging the students to 'think hard' for themselves, rather than being passive recipients of knowledge.

Slide 7: Nine active learning techniques

1. **Guess the Lesson Objective -** Tell your students that you are not going to tell them the lesson objectives or key questions at the start. Instead you are going to ask them at the end what they think the objectives or key questions were.
2. **Provocation -** A ‘provocation’ is an activity that provokes or encourages student thinking:

* Ask the students to think of the questions they want to ask about a particular topic.
* Use a relevant image to provoke thought and discussion.
* Model a learning activity (or show a video of it). Instead of explaining it, ask the student open-ended questions about it.

1. **Visible Thinking -** Visible thinking is an approach designed to make the learning process clearer. In other words, students get to know the processes which go into deeper thinking:
   1. **Think - Puzzle - Explore**. This is a ‘thinking routine’, which links students’ existing knowledge to their future independent enquiry. Students answer the questions:
      * + What do you think you know about the topic?
        + What questions (puzzles) do you have?
        + How can you explore this topic?
   2. **See – Think – Wonder**. This is another thinking routine. It is designed to work with images, but could also work with lots of other things, such as watching a video clip, or carrying out an experiment. Students answer the questions:
      * + What do you see?
        + What do you think about that?
        + What does it make you wonder?
2. **Questioning**

* **Give students time to think of an answer before asking for responses**.
* **Consider choosing students to answer, rather than asking for a show of hands**.
* **Use open-ended questions where possible**.
* **Push the students to develop their points by asking follow-up questions**. Good questions include, “Go on...", “why do you think that?”, “could you say more?”.
* Get students to write their own open-ended questions for the class to discuss, or exam-style questions for the class to answer.

1. **Class debate -** Students work in groups to prepare statements either for or against a key statement – For example: ‘Global warming is a fictional idea created by politicians to further their own agenda’.
2. **Quiz creation -** Get your students to design quizzes to share amongst the class. This could be done on paper, or you could use a free online tool such as **Quizlet** or **Hot Potatoes**.
3. **Modelling -** Model what ‘good’ looks like for your learners to reinforce the learning points. Help students to ask their own questions, and design their own ‘good’ models to answer these.
4. **Exit activity -** Ask students to do something on exit from the classroom which keeps them thinking right to the end, such as:
5. **The ‘Flipped Classroom’ -** In a flipped classroom, students get to know a topic before the lesson, and then the lesson is used for activities which develop their thinking and understanding.

* Examples of activities in preparation for the lesson include:
  1. Note-taking from a textbook
  2. Reading an article on the topic
  3. Listening to a podcast or watching a video.
  4. Doing some research the class.
* Examples of lesson activities include:
  1. Discussion or seminar based on the homework
  2. A problem-solving task
  3. An essay-planning activity