

Effective Learning – what is it?

Basically, we class effective learning as any method or resource that helps your pupils learn and use any knowledge or skill **more** quickly, thoroughly, easily, enjoyably, deeply and/or permanently. This can be in any subject(s) but ideally, it would help learning across the school.

What Effective Learning Methods Are There?

One of our guiding principles is that teachers know best what will help their particular pupils learn more effectively. Bearing that in mind, here are just some ideas that you might want to consider – the major award would most likely help implement a powerful combination of these...

Brief Notes	Further Information
Accelerated Learning	
<p><i>This is a bit of an umbrella term that incorporates many of the effective learning techniques which we have listed below e.g. Using VAK input, the accelerated learning cycle and multiple intelligences. How the brain learns. Building positive self-esteem. Assessing and retaining information e.g. by speed reading and memory mapping</i></p>	<p>Book: Colin Rose – Master it Faster Book: Alistair Smith: Accelerated Learning in the Classroom</p> <p>http://www.alistairsmithlearning.com/learning</p>
<p>Learning and practising accelerated learning techniques through writing fiction</p>	<p>https://www.amazon.co.uk/Alps-StoryMaker-Resource-Accelerated-Learning/dp/1855390760</p>
Thinking Skills	
<p><i>Another umbrella term that covers a whole host of effective learning methods including: Broadening thinking, ideas generation, focussing attention, organising thinking, assessing evidence, debating, creativity methods, dealing effectively with information and emotion/values and a using a thinking framework.</i></p>	<p>Book - Edward de Bono: Teach your child how to think.</p> <p>http://www.cortthinking.com/cort/1</p>
Debating/Public Speaking	
<p>Learning to organise information, prepare an interesting and informative talk, getting to the point, impromptu speaking, control voice/posture and give constructive evaluation etc.</p>	<p>https://www.toastmasters.org/membership/community-based-programs</p>
Mind mapping	
<p>Recording, remembering and learning information better by using the principles of radiant thinking</p>	<p>Tony Buzan: The Mind Map Book http://www.mindmapping.com</p>
Educational Coaching/Self-Belief /Confidence/Mind-Set/Motivation	
<p>Developing attentive listening skills, effective questioning techniques and understanding/applying what motivates others and bolsters confidence.</p>	<p>https://training.coachinginschools.com/course-details/ https://www.theguardian.com/teacher-network/2018/jan/04/research-every-teacher-should-know-growth-mindset</p>
Speed reading	
<p>Techniques to help absorb written information more quickly – balancing speed with comprehension. Using software tools to help.</p>	<p>https://www.speedreadinglounge.com/how-to-speed-read https://www.spreader.com/</p>
Study/Revision/Exam Techniques	
<p>Making studying more effective by using cognitive science recommendations such as elaboration, dual coding and interleaving.</p>	<p>http://www.learningscientists.org/downloadable-materials/</p>

Using Modes of Learning	
Using e.g. 8 different intelligences (Visual, linguistic, kinaesthetic, interpersonal, intrapersonal, logical, musical, naturalistic) to increase the speed and depth of learning.	http://www.thinkingschoolsinternational.com/the-tsi-approach-and-training/thinking-skills/
Learning Environment	
Creating an ideal learning environment for your pupils including looking at resources, displays, room layout, music and grouping. Also the psychological and social factors and ethos that support learning.	https://www.opencolleges.edu.au/informed/features/20-things-educators-need-to-know-about-learning-spaces/ https://qz.com/375894/this-is-what-the-ideal-learning-environment-looks-like-according-to-science/
I.T. and Online Learning	
Using interactive software/hardware to improve learning. How to search effectively, evaluate sources and take effective notes online. Interactive learning/assessment e.g. learning software (Quizlet, Plickers)	https://tutorful.co.uk/blog/the-82-hottest-edtech-tools-of-2017-according-to-education-experts https://www.nwea.org/blog/2018/the-ultimate-list-65-digital-tools-and-apps-to-support-formative-assessment-practices/
Creative Thinking/Generating and Assessing Ideas/Lateral Thinking	
Fun, effective ways to help generate new ideas and problem solve. This might include structured methods such as de Bono's Six Hats Thinking to simple approaches such as reverse thinking.	http://www.debonogroup.com/six_thinking_hats.php https://www.cleverism.com/18-best-idea-generation-techniques/
Memory Techniques	
Understanding how memory works and improving memorisation and recall using techniques such as the Link, Major and Roman Room Systems.	https://www.academictips.org/memory/index.html Book: Tony Buzan: The Memory Book.
Collaborative Learning	
Using learning in pairs or larger groups to accelerate and deepen learning as well as increase motivation and enjoyment.	https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/evidence-summaries/teaching-learning-toolkit/collaborative-learning/
Assessment for Learning	
How to use assessment to best facilitate effective learning.	https://cambridge-community.org.uk/professional-development/gswaf/index.html

This is not an exhaustive list by any means, and we are very happy to consider any other Effective Learning ideas for an award.

How might I spend the award money?

It is entirely up to you how to best implement your selected method(s). Here are some examples:

- learning and teaching materials (e.g. CoRT Thinking: 60 ready-made lesson plans and resources to teach different aspects of thinking. <http://www.cortthinking.com/>)
- equipment, software, books, on-line subscriptions, other resources
- out-of-school courses (pupils or teacher), out-of-hours learning, clubs
- outside speakers/presentations, visiting specialist tutors/teachers
- learning days/weeks
- research and application
- Teacher/school training and accreditation e.g.
 - Thinking Matters www.thinkingmatters.com formerly: Thinking Schools International <http://www.thinkingschoolsinternational.com/step-1-introductory-professional-development-workshop/>
 - Alistair Smith – one of the key players in accelerated learning. <http://www.alistairsmithlearning.com/learning>
 - Edward De Bono Thinking Courses <https://www.edwdebono.com/courses> or <http://www.edwarddebonofoundation.com/Our-Solutions/How-We-Help-You-Be-Creative.html>

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