Title (maximum – 10 words)

No Pens Day

Excerpt/Description (2 sentences):

At Whalley Range, students are already given many opportunities to develop ‘presentational talk’, but this year we have focused on developing what Voice 21 have coined ‘exploratory talk’ <https://www.voice21.org/> . Through the development of oracy in the curriculum, students have been engaging critically and constructively with others’ ideas in group discussion with an emphasis on replacing more informal language with standard English.

Post Content:

Paragraph 1: (Short paragraph) What you did and why/how you came to be doing it

This Autumn we launched ‘a year of oracy’, so to get students and staff in the mood for this, ‘No Pens Day Wednesday’ was our summer kick-off event, inspired by the national initiative from ‘The Communication Trust’, <https://thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/projects/> .

***It has to be Wednesday - No Pens Day Thursday doesn’t have the same ring to it, does it?!***

A creative and divergent mix of activities and lessons on a bright July day, showcased fantastic teaching and learning to get everyone talking.

Paragraph 2: (Longest paragraph) Detail of what you did, sessions you ran and may include barriers you encountered and how you overcame them

Y10 gathered around a campfire (imaginary of course – great use of the iPhone torch) to create and tell their own Gothic ghost story.

Y9 historians developed their acting, technological and communication skills as they devised movie trailers based on the Manchurian Crisis (you may have to google it), while Year 7s created an oral Torah in Project Day.

No Pens Day Wednesday (I know it just rolls off the tongue!) was a triumph of voice, creativity, communication and collaboration. It was prepped for with a twilight, sharing ideas that teachers could choose to use or adapt for their own subject focus, and an introduction of our oracy strategies to be launched with students in the Autumn.

Now it’s the end of term one, and we are teaching our three ‘talk protocols’ (Say it Again, Think and Ink and Talk it Out) and working across faculties to develop ways of using talk to explore, rehearse, repeat, revise. But our first ever No Pens Day lives on our shared memory and gives teachers and students confidence that they can put their pens down!

Links/Files (Please send images along with this document – make sure they are original images and that they meet the standards set out in the school esafety policy)

Categories: Oracy

Tags:

Title: Mr/Mrs/Ms Other­ Miss

First Name: Rosie

Last Name: Culkin-Smith

Teacher of History (if applicable)

Job Role/Title: Learning Coordinator for Literacy

Base: WRHS

With thanks to: (if applicable):

Twitter handle: (if applicable, and only if the account is used in a professional capacity): e.g. @Trust\_ELT

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