

# AfL update

**Welcome to the first edition of our AfL update! This will be a two page spread in which we will share top tips on assessment and give any news updates on national and local initiatives.**

Swanmore College of Technology has been chosen to be part of the Lead Assessment Schools Project. We are one of six secondary schools within Hampshire to be chosen. This is a great opportunity to share some of our expertise in assessment but also to work with other schools to develop our assessment practices in house.

Currently the Swanmore College of Technology Lead Assessment team includes Crys Smith, Tim Cole and Ashleigh Arbuthnot.

We are looking forward to sharing some of our work on assessment with all staff during the training day in January. In the mean time if you have any areas that you would be interested in pursuing with regard to your subject areas such as APP and/or AfL strategies do contact Ashleigh to set up appropriate links.

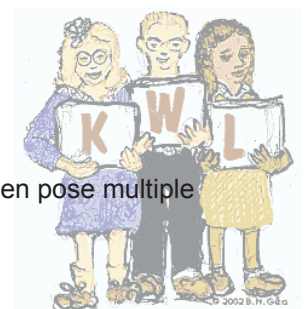
## AfL Health Check



Last January subject teams completed the 'AfL Healthcheck' to indicate key college AfL priorities these were determined as self/ peer assessment and sharing success criteria with pupils. The 'AfL healthcheck' will be carried out again during the next departmental meeting in December to assist future whole college development.

## Top tips to support AfL in our classrooms:

- Share success criteria through exemplar work- see W11 as an example!
- Get pupils at the start of a topic lesson to KWL.  
This is to write:
  - a. What they know
  - b. What they want to know
  - c. What they have learnt (return to throughout topic/ unit)
- Lettered cards- give each pupil a set of lettered cards such as Y and N or T and F. Then pose multiple questions of the whole class. This can lead to quality discussion within the group.



- No hands up rule- except to ask a question.
- Class vote- all pupils to vote on a question you put to the class with two or more possible answers.
- Entrance ticket- hand out a card to each pupil as they walk into the room and ask them to write the answer to a question posed on the board. Glance through the pupils' answers to help decide questions to ask the class, discussions, tasks to set, or how to seat pupils.
- Post it notes on a continuum- each pupil has a post it note with name clearly on it. The teacher draws a horizontal line on the boards with, say opposing statements at each end and asks pupils to think about where they would place their post it note.
- Wait watchers- because it is hard for teachers to wait 3 seconds after asking a question to allow pupils to think, it is occasionally useful (with a class you can) to have a pupil volunteer with a stopwatch checking the teacher's wait time during a class discussion.
- Ask a friend- sometimes when pupils are chosen at random to answer a question they really do not know the answer, and may feel awkward and embarrassed, and it may be useful to allow them to 'ask-a-friend', another pupil in the class who may be able to help them answer the question.
- Muddiest point-pupils write down one or two points on which they are least clear. This could be from the previous lesson, the rest of the unit, the preceding activity etc. The teacher and class can then seek to remedy the muddiness.
- Pupils write questions about the learning or for the next lesson that will encourage discussion and clarification.
- Check class understanding or even enjoyment (if you are feeling brave) with the thumbs up rule or the big hand scale. Thumbs up- I get it! Thumbs half way- sort of! Thumbs down- I don't get it!



## News update on Assessing Pupils' Progress (APP) for Subject Leaders

Q. Is APP being abolished?

A. APP continues to be a voluntary approach to pupil tracking and it is for schools to decide if they want to use it or not.

Q. Can APP still be used to moderate teacher assessment?

A. Yes!

Q. Will there be any new materials?

A. No plans to publish any new material.

Q. How can I gain information on APP resources that were published?

A. Through your Lead Assessment Schools contact.