

## Top tips for applying approaches to learning in your subjects

- How students the BIG PICTURE from the start so they know what the subject is about and where they are going.
- Identify KEY CONCEPTS - these are the organizing principles for your academic subject which shows how the subject works.
- Take into account HOW THE BRAIN WORKS and structure the work to maximize the learning. Make it a social activity. Ensure that you engage with the emotional aspects of learning. Watch the SENTIS videos (why not share them with students - let them into the secret, the understanding of how their brains work).
- Encourage LEARNING BY DOING - use activities, protocols and strategies to engage students. Collect these into a school toolkit so all teachers can use them.
- Vary your TEACHING STYLE in order to meet the different learning needs of students. Yes sometimes the lecture and seminar style approach is good, but not as the only diet. Use collaborative learning tools where students construct knowledge and meaning together.
- Get STUDENTS TO TEACH EACH OTHER - this allows them to learn the material by communicating it to their peers, thus deepening the learning in the brain.
- Build in REFLECTION into all learning experiences. When students are asked to reflect on their learning they deepen their learning.
- MODEL LEARNING, thus making it visible. Teach in the way you want to encourage your students to learn.
- Make learning RELEVANT. Get students to make the links with local and global contexts. As a teacher apply the learning to real time contexts.
- Use DRAWINGS & IMAGES - asking students to visualise concepts helps them to both analyse and understand concepts.
- Use ASSESSMENT CRITERIA throughout the course so that students are in charge of their own learning - they feel comfortable knowing what is expected of them, and the criteria that is being applied to their work.
- ASK QUESTIONS - continually encourage students to frame questions on any topic you are teaching. This develops their curiosity and also prepares them well to frame research questions in their Extended Essay.