Information Literacy Overview

Information literacy incorporates a set of skills and abilities which everyone needs to undertake information-related tasks; for instance, how to discover, access, interpret, analyse, manage, create, communicate, store and share information. Many staff working in school libraries feel that they would like to become more involved with student learning. Often these colleagues are confronted with resource-based lessons in which students need to find out information to improve their learning in a topic. Such sessions may not be entirely satisfactory; either for the students participating in them, or for the staff directing the session. Currently, there is more pressure upon librarians to produce tasks which actually take the students beyond what they already know. This might be traditionally said to be the role of the teacher and yet there is often an assumption that the Librarian also knows how to tailor lessons to student need. It is sometimes assumed that library staff areas cognisant on the structure of an effective lesson as their teaching colleagues should be. Furthermore, they may also be expected to understand what might make such a lesson 'good' or even 'outstanding' in the context of lesson observation or inspection. However, teaching staff do not always show the lesson plan to their colleagues before the lesson begins. There may be nothing within the lesson plan which allows the student to be creative – in short the lesson is a simple treasure hunt to find out a series of facts. In the twenty-first century educators have to exploit the opportunities that lessons based in the Library can present to move the students on in both their skills expertise and their knowledge of the topic to be studied. If the lesson can be used to introduce a generic skill or reprise a technique from an earlier Scheme of Work then good learning practice is revisited. This helps the students improve their learning behaviours. This course is arranged using six modules. Although participants may work through the modules in any order it is strongly recommended that you begin with Module One. This will give you a theoretical appreciation of the subject and the further modules will make more sense. An extensive bibliography is supplied with the course. It will not be necessary to read all of the references before commencing the course but it will help your knowledge and understanding if you consult some of the sources as you develop. Do not skip the links which are assigned to specific modules as they form an intrinsic part of the course. They have been chosen to aid your development in the topic and a sound knowledge base will help you when talking to colleagues and/or senior leaders. Throughout the modules you may see a blue star symbol. This indicates a lesson plan or idea is being introduced.

Participants are advised to undertake the course with the permission of senior management within their establishment. If possible you should also enlist the help of subject leaders so that you are able to experiment with various lesson frameworks or topics. In this way you will also gain feedback which will help you build and develop new ideas.

Online course for the SLA in developing study skills and media literacy across Key stages 3 to 5.

OUTLINE

Theory of information literacy	Thinking/study skills/Theories(brief)	Types of learner	Why this learning is important First steps in learning more
Being a digital citizen	Cyber safety for staff & students Evaluative methods for checking website information and news sources	Netiquette Responsible use of social media platforms	Terminology
Lesson planning	Designing a Programme of study (Scheme of Work)	Planning lesson objectives KWL grids	Assessing progress and feeding back to students
Working with others	Involving colleagues Team teaching	Group work	Designing activity days
Keeping evidence	Student achievement (involvement and enjoyment) Can a lesson in the Library be outstanding?	Reports to senior management	Inspection and validation National curricula
Evaluation and development	Sharing ideas Flipped classroom	Tips and tricks	More to know/ Educators such as Bloom and De Bono