

Becoming a teacher.....top 10 tips....

Contributed by Dave Skyes

- 1) Teachers are born. Great educators can be created...most people can achieve a high standard of aptitude with the right input and attitude.
- 2) Love being with kids....in a positive, life-enhancing way, not a “News of the World” Werthers originals way. Remember how awkward being young can be (Bambi on the ice) & how horrible life can look (Nemo’s mum eaten by barracuda in first couple of minutes of movie).
- 3) Plan, prepare, rehearse. BUT adapt at a moment’s notice. If the students go in a particular direction, go with them. Allow them to lead: self-motivation is better than anything. Many paths lead to the top of Mount Fuji.
- 4) In many ways, this is actually number one. ALWAYS raise your students’ self-esteem: when their confidence soars, so does their ability. This is not rocket science.
- 5) It’s all about the possible. Look at 4 above....get that right and everything is possible. Incidentally, their success makes you glow.
- 6) Enable. Them. & You.
- 7) Remember the most vital component in a teaching situation is you. It is vital to recharge your batteries on a regular basis.
- 8) Whatever works with one student may be anathema to another. Learn to assess students swiftly and be prepared to challenge your own assumptions. Never see the students en masse...they are each very individual.
- 9) Love the subject you teach. Keep up to date with it. Find the good parts. Work harder on the bad parts. Mix things up. A satisfying meal has several ingredients.
- 10) Ignore all advice, including 1-9 above. You will always be the best judge of how good you can enable students to become.