



Study Skills and the Virtues of Learning

Aims:

Explore the need to cultivate the virtues that encourage learning and how to apply them in different aspects and stages of life.

Preparation and materials:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ELpfYCZa87g> [available 05/20] ('Neuroplasticity' – Sentis)

Assembly:

1. Explain to students that at the end of year 11 they will take their GCSE exams. These exams are important in shaping what you will continue to study in KS5 and beyond. One of the skills you will be developing as you approach your GCSE's are techniques for revising and learning the material for your subjects so you can perform well and achieve the best possible grades.
2. Discuss with the person next to you. Are you looking forward to all the learning and content you will have to study in the run up to your exams? If so why? If not, why not? Is there something you could do or change to ensure you think of this year with positivity?
3. Explain what does learning means? Learning is something that you are involved with in many areas of your life. This assembly is designed to help you consider and reflect on how you learn and the skills and character virtues that can be developed to help you learn most efficiently. These are skills you will be able to use in many areas of your life.
 - What does it mean to be involved in learning?
 - What image do you conjure up when you think about the word learning?
 - In what areas of your life are you involved in learning? Where and how does this take place
4. Explain to students that there are many barriers to learning, both at school and at home. Can you identify the main challenges you face in your learning? What types of barriers to learning do you face? Take some student feedback. Are these barriers something you can control (lack of motivation, preoccupation with something else, distraction) or are they factors out of your control (noise in the classroom, disruption from other people).
5. Interview a teacher who overcame barriers when they were a student. What did they do to overcome the challenges and barriers to learning that they faced? Were you able to overcome them or was it easier to give up?
6. Show the 'neuroplasticity video. Take some feedback from students. Are they shocked at the results of this?





Reflection:

Which of the virtues that you've been thinking about might relate to the issues of overcoming barriers to learning? How might virtues such as justice, resilience, courage, curiosity and self-discipline relate to this issue?

Challenge:

Think about 2 or 3 new learning habits that you need to form through repetition in the build up to your exams. How are you going to go about forming those habits and whose help they are going to enlist in forming them? Write a journal entry to identify what habits you plan to develop. How might you use these habits in different aspects of your life and in different stages of your life?

