

**SCHOOLS OF THE FUTURE – English, HSIE, Performing Arts
STUDENT FOCUS GROUP'**

The best thing about the project was.....

Learning about the drama and acting

Learning about different ancient Egyptian personalities

Getting to work with others, writing the monologue together and incorporating others ideas

Groups were supporting each other in developing their monologues

Students were talking to each other and helping

Bringing together the different subject areas

Not moving around the whole school

Did you make connections between the subject areas and transfer knowledge across the areas? How did you know?

Getting to learn while being able to move around

Not having teachers repeats themselves – not repeating themselves so that you understand. Eg learning about Cleopatra in English and then HSIE and having teachers tell you the same thing twice.

People were better behaved

In English we were learning about foot binding in Chinese Cinderella and then we learnt the same thing in HSIE.

We keep re-learning the same things, this makes learning echoing and boring

More classes should be combined together like this

It makes learning fun when working with others that you don't normally get to work with

We were using the three subjects – English and writing then transform into a play using drama

It changed the way the classroom worked. We got to learn about something and then do something practical

The practical part was fun

It was good to have a large group of children from the same classes.

Learned about emotions

Used English to make monologue. HSIE using information to provide content and drama to bring it together and express the emotions and feelings

Did they share their subject-specific knowledge with others? How do you know?

We were able to focus on strengths. Able to focus on subject we are passionate about but also learn about others.

I wrote three monologues

Had to share knowledge with others when we were writing we shared something new
Were able to share knowledge with other students to refine their projects. This made me feel happy and that I had something to contribute.

How did you find working in different space?

Interesting and fun and comfortable in the library

Warm

Got to spread out

Able to move to suit the task. Can concentrate more on work when you are comfortable. I worked harder in that space. Moved to different spaces to suite what we were doing to concentrate eg. acting vs writing

We were better behaved in the space

I feel enclosed in an English classroom. I got more work done because I had more space to think

Liked no seating plan

More freedom to move around

Concentrate and think harder

Teachers are being more flexible and giving more feedback

Can move furniture to suit the group – more comfortable

We talk more in the flexible space about the task we are completing.

Maintain concentration for longer period of time.

Friends help me remain on task

Teachers – giving more feedback and help. In library teachers are happy and helpful answered my questions.

Mixed grouping s- had to work with different people. Did not like at first but got used to it and we worked really well together.

Do you feel that you had greater control over your learning?

Had control

Got to learn with friends about something new and share ideas and put into monologue

Got to pick who we learned about- personality

Not all doing the same task.

More freedom

More switched on

Easy to get input from peers

Do you think the students gained a deeper knowledge of their subject area and other subjects? Why/ why not?

Yes when I was using HSIE I was learning English and PA at the same time. I was writing and thinking about how I would be speaking. I got to incorporate things. I found it challenging. We used words from Egypt and learned new things

Learnt more

Learnt interesting things.

A lot of information we could take in and use. We got to choose the information we learnt more about – choice very important. I really wanted to know about this person – so I took in as much information as I could.

Feel more attached to learning in that space because in a classroom the teachers aren't coming around and talking to you. They are just up the front with their back to you and writing on the board. Teachers are more inclined to help you and this allows you to improve

The teacher in class normally stops everyone to give help and then others lose their train of thought and have to slow down because of others. We have to wait for everyone.

In the flexible space with this task was different because we have more time. We have a few hours with different subjects to finish the work and the teacher comes up to you. In the 'normal' classroom we feel like it is hard to keep up with the writing or doing the same work at the same pace as the rest of the class. Sometimes we miss out on some of the work. In the flex space we are all at different paces and can chill or help people if we are done.

I like how we were able to listen to music to keep focused while we working

It is more like Primary School

I like that we can walk around and speak to other students that are at our level

More relaxed and not so uptight so we can concentrate more and people we are comfortable with can help us easier.

The activity itself is helping us learn more. Rather than just copying off the board because we don't really pay attention. When we do an activity with the information we remember it more.

Would you recommend trialling this type of task again? How can we improve the task for next time?

Have a special time

Make it a subject.

Don't; want to lose subjects we enjoy

Not different teachers. Have a different teacher every day, not every period

Consistent teacher helps you learn more

Some teachers don't collaborate and work together

Should have one teacher from every subject so that they can draw on the right teacher if we don't know something from a subject area

Change these subjects to combine Maths and Science – if you work at Kmart you need maths and science to do your job. Change the topic to do the project.

Subjects need to have some relationship to do the project.

I liked the groupings to have choice who we worked with but that the teachers also had some choice. It made the groups productive

We didn't have to carry books- that was good.

Liked having one folder. My bag is so much lighter.

We learnt more because we had a responsibility to get the task done on time. If people were away the folders were still there.

It was good to work independently as well as with the group.

Today was too noisy – I lost concentration.

Solo and group aspect – meant that everyone had a n option to do work independently or as part of a group.- liked this aspect

Deadline – was not long. Combining subjects we had quite a few periods to do the work.

It was broken up so it took a bit of time to get started on the task.

Should have been longer

It would be boring to do it all the time. Should not be too long but not too short. Some students would like a longer period

Blocking projects together would make it easier to understand like primary school.

Periods 1and 2 for a week? Possibly?

Break up half way for practical feedback and to do more practical throughout/

On a scale of 1-10

10

9

8.5

6

8

8

9

8

9