

Outstanding learning

"An outstanding lesson is one in which all, or nearly all, of the features of a good lesson are present, plus **some** of the following:

- A. All students are challenged and make good progress, especially those at the ends of the ability range and those who lack confidence; some make exceptional progress; a lot of ground is covered in the lesson but stragglers are not left by the wayside.
- B. Enthusiasm and enjoyment pervade the classroom.
- C. The teaching is exciting and interesting (for example, through use of stimulating resources or other adults in the lesson); it may be inspired, although it doesn't have to be.
- D. All the students are involved in the lesson and all contribute in some form.
- E. Teaching methods are very well matched to the content and to the learners - some may be original or innovative; for example, content closely linked to students' experiences or to interesting practical situations.
- F. The teacher checks progress throughout the lesson; assessment is regular and helpful.
- G. Students evaluate their own, and others' progress accurately and constructively.
- H. All students know how to improve as a result of regular and constructive feedback; where appropriate -ate this is linked to national criteria or examination requirements.
- J. The teacher develops students' basic and other cross-curricular skills, for example, literacy, numeracy, independent learning and PSHE.
- K. Students have easy access to, and make use of, additional resources which they use independently to support or enhance their learning.
- L. Students go out of their way to help each other; they provide mutual support.
- M. The classroom is a lively and interesting place; it includes good displays of students' work (representing all abilities), things which give a subject specific flavour to the room, and annotated examples of levelled work used to support learning.

Outstanding lessons **don't need to be perfect**, and even with a comprehensive list like this, it can be difficult to gauge where the line is between good and outstanding. When in doubt, my litmus test is whether **there is a real relationship between students and the teacher that produces a tangible air of enthusiasm and enjoyment**.