



Researchers:

Team A:

Charlotte Prior
Jasmine Graham
Anna Boghurst

Team B

Adaeze Adehuwa-
Olabode
Aaliyah Wheeler
Elizabeth Boghurst

Team C:

Maryam Hadadj
Nimra Kahn
Vy Ngygen

*Can teachers and
students jointly plan
lessons ?*

*What are the
teachers' views and
how do they feel
about students
helping?*

*What techniques
work best for
teachers and pupils?*

Can teachers and students successfully plan and deliver lessons together?

Young researchers find out more about student/teacher partnerships

Ten students from years 7 and 8 have been investigating whether students and teachers can work together to plan and deliver lessons. After four sessions of intensive research training, the student researchers worked in groups to design and carry out their own research projects. As part of the training they learnt how to carry out observations, use film and audio to gather data, conduct interviews and focus groups, and design surveys. They were able to put these techniques into practice to find out some of the benefits and limitations of students and teachers working in partnership in the classroom.

Before carrying out their research each group had to come up with a focus for their research. It was important that these were issues that they were interested in and wanted to find out more about.

Our Research

To find out how teachers and students could improve their communication, one of the groups carried out classroom observations in three different departments. They worked with the Heads of Department so that they could share their different perspectives. During the observations they had to take notes and try not to get in the way of the lesson. According to Adaeze, being a non-participant observer is not as easy as it sounds:

"There were people in the class I knew and they wanted to know what was going on. It felt rude to ignore them but I didn't want them to act differently".

Researchers also interviewed teachers to find out what activities they were already doing with pupils. Nimra and Elizabeth spoke to a number of different teachers about their experience of letting pupils plan activities. Nimra described the experience of



Students conduct a 'speed' questionnaire session as part of their research training

Each group came up a research question:

- A. Do teacher/student partnerships increase motivation during lessons?
- B. How can we make partnerships between teachers and students stronger?
- C. Can students and teachers successfully plan lessons together?



Nimra Kahn interviews Mr Harold about his experience

interviewing her Coach, Mr Harold, as nerve-wracking "It was my first interview and I was really nervous and thought I was going to get everything



Elizabeth Boghurst interviews Ms Spencer

‘Pupils can be very creative. They often think of things you would never have thought of’

‘I think pupils are more engaged sometimes when they’re listening to their peers’

‘I never realized how much work it is to plan just one lesson. I feel sorry for teachers now!’



wrong. I found it hard but Mr Harold was really nice”. Elizabeth Boghurst Spoke to Ms Spencer about her experience of giving one of her pupils the role of ‘assistant teacher’. Ms Spencer was surprised and please at how able the student was and would like to give more pupils the opportunity to try out this role.

After collecting all of their data, the groups came together to analyse their results. After gathering a lots of information, this was a difficult task: “We had so much information and people had loads of different ideas so was hard to find the most relevant bits”, said Elizabeth.

Research Top Tips

Drawing on their experience, researchers came up with the following top tips:

Do:

- ✓ Compliment the interviewee
- ✓ Keep eye-contact during the interview
- ✓ Give all the positive feedback first
- ✓ Keep checking with your participants that everything is under control
- ✓ Take into account that people might be busy

Don't:

- ✗ Laugh during an interview (even if you're nervous)
- ✗ Look like you are not listening
- ✗ Participate while doing non-participant observation (it's harder than it sounds)
- ✗ Run away in embarrassment when asking someone for an interview

Our Results

After gathering lots of data from lots of sources, here are some of the things the student researchers found out:

- Teachers enjoy working in partnership with pupils and believe that there are lots of benefits for teaching and learning.
- Teachers feel that letting pupils plan and deliver activities can help to motivate students, it can develop their skills and their subject knowledge and teachers can learn from their ideas.
- Partnership works best when students plan and deliver activities rather than whole lessons as they do not have the same level of subject knowledge or training as teachers.
- Teachers would like to work more with pupils to plan and deliver activities but there is not always time to do it as much as they would like.
- Students enjoy lessons that are creative and where they get the chance to participate in the lesson. Having a role means that students are more likely to stay focused

What happens next?

Are you considering a career in teaching? Would you like to work with a teacher to plan an activity and help improve the learning of your class? Why not speak to one of your teachers and find out if they are interested in supporting you.

Or, if you would like to conduct your own research project, see Miss Mullen the Student Voice Co-ordinator