

Indicators of Great Teaching

There are many key indicators of great teaching in no particular order. The key is whether teaching really 'ignites the spark' in students. Here are some ideas, but not an exhaustive list:

1. Teachers are inspired and enthused by ideas in their subject and by what they are teaching.
2. Learners are inspired and enthused by the teaching, and respect their teachers.
3. Teaching differentiates between learners in order to extend them as best fits their individual needs.
4. Teaching extends all students beyond their comfort zone but within the realm of what they can cope with.
5. Teaching is organised and well planned in accordance with schemes of work and specifications.
6. Teaching is flexible to the needs of the moment in a given lesson, not slavish to a lesson plan at the expense of being creative and engaging for learners.
7. Teachers have an excellent rapport with students without trying to please them.
8. Behaviour is managed effectively and positively, and teachers show care and respect for their students.
9. Teachers explain concepts clearly and patiently.
10. Lessons show a variety of teaching methodologies. This includes, amongst other things, the effective use of ICT where it genuinely improves learning.
11. Lessons are fast-paced and well constructed, but don't shy away from giving time for students to think, reflect, read and even, where appropriate, be still.
12. Teaching encourages students to work together, learn from each other and critically reflect on each other's work and ideas.
13. Lesson aims are explained effectively, but lessons allow a sense of mystery when it helps students to engage in topics themselves.

14. Lessons are creative and encourage divergent thinking, but also focus on the practical necessities of doing well in examinations.
15. Teachers give detailed and regular written and oral feedback to students on class work and homework. Formative comments are a significant contributor to improved learning in students.
16. Lessons are taught in a safe environment.
17. Teaching reinforces the Christian Ardingly ethos and draws from it. Lessons help to promote a sense of awe and wonder and encourage students to keep developing their own journey of the spirit.
18. Teaching encourages students and teachers to keep developing habits of effective learning, like those on the ALP.

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