

CSL: Mind Mapping

Developing focused attention

This two-hour workshop will enable your students to develop an inquisitive approach to learning and studying. Through adopting the mindset of a detective, your students will be able to identify, condense and arrange key information. With exercises to ignite and arouse their curiosity, this workshop is sure to get them thinking.

RATIONALE

To think like a detective gives students both a memorable metaphor for inquiry and a compelling methodology that leads to effective independent learners. Like expert detectives, expert students should be trained to **think** about how they think. A good detective needs to be able to think both creatively, and **critically**. They need to be able to apply focused attention and solve problems. This workshop combines exercises which engage all those skills, whilst also teaching your students the incredible learning technique known as mind mapping. A mind map is a diagram used to visually **organise information** into a hierarchy, showing relationships between ideas and concepts. Studies have shown that mind mapping is an innovative and effective method in remembering things, performing far better than the routine way of just reading text (Kalyanasundaram 2017). In this workshop, your students will fine-tune their observational skills, work collaboratively to analyse and evaluate data and apply a logical approach to problem solving. All underpinned with the technique of mind mapping,

The impact of collaborative approaches on learning is consistently positive.

EEF Toolkit

OBJECTIVES

- To encourage students to develop an enquiring mind and become active learners.
- To encourage students to reflect on their current approaches to studying.
- To equip students with independent learning strategies.
- To enable students to study in an active and enjoyable manner.

SKILLS taught and their BENEFITS

Collaborative learning involves pupils working together on activities or learning tasks in a group small enough to ensure that everyone participates.

Chunking information involves breaking content into smaller groups and presenting it a coordinated and hierarchical fashion. Dividing your course content into manageable chunks helps students learn more effectively (Ambrose et al., 2013; Felder & Brent, 2016)

Colour coding teaches students codify separate, different chunks of information. Colour can help significantly to show the organisation of a subject and/or topic.

Summarising teaches students to discern the most important ideas in a text, how to ignore irrelevant information, and how to integrate the central ideas in a meaningful way.

Problem solving skills are the ability to identify problems, brainstorm and analyse answers, and implement the best solutions.

Creative thinking improves focus and concentration and helps to reduce stress and anxiety. Creative thinking is multi-disciplinary, gives meaning to learning, promotes risk-taking and can lead to feelings of accomplishment and pride.

“Amazing! It motivated me and helped me focus and understand revision in a much easier way.”

Year 8 Student – Knutsford Academy (2022)

OUTCOMES

By the end of the workshop, your students will have:

- Developed an enquiring mind and confidence in their abilities as an active learner.
- Improved their memory skills and metacognitive abilities.
- Gained confidence in their own abilities and potential.
- Developed a positive attitude towards study and revision, using mind-mapping as an effective, active, creative and enjoyable strategy.

GATSBY Benchmarks: 3,6
NERUPI Framework: Practise
PSHE Core: Living in the wider world

Statutory Guidance, Curriculum and Frameworks