

HPL Primary Newsletter June 2021



Introduction

Welcome to the last HPL (High Performance Learning) newsletter for Term 3. Here you will find further ACPs (Advanced Cognitive Performance Characteristics) and VAAs (Values Attitudes and Attributes).

Myth: HPL is too complicated for my child

We used to believe that the human brain was like a sponge: that it soaked up knowledge but, when it was saturated, it became full and unable to absorb anything more. This thinking assumes that the brain does not change in size and that no more learning can take place past a particular point. Intelligent students, it was thought, simply had bigger brains, whilst those students who struggled did so because of the limited capacity of their brain to 'soak up' information. Simply put, you were either 'smart' at school or you were not. Neuroscientists reject this! They believe that the brain is like a muscle that can be strengthened and grown through regular stimulus. Indeed, the malleability or 'plasticity' of the brain is highest during adolescence, and this concept underpins HPL. Given the correct stimulus, all students, not only the so-called 'gifted', can improve their intelligence and perform at a high level.

By Professor Deborah Eyre, Founder of HPL

Creating



There are five ACPs under the creating heading:

1. Intellectual playfulness: has fun with and uses rules flexibly.
2. Flexible thinking: willingness to abandon ideas and consider multiple or superior solutions.
3. Fluent thinking: the ability to generate ideas.
4. Originality: the ability to create and model innovative ideas.
5. Evolutionary and revolutionary thinking: creating new ideas by building on and diverging from existing ones.

Examples of creating in action:

How about...?
What if I did it differently?
Is there another way?
How could I argue the opposite?
What might someone else think?
How do I know that? What evidence have I got?
I wonder what might happen if...

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Analysing



There are three ACPs under the 'Analysing' heading

1. Critical or logical thinking: the ability to hypothesise and to analyse and synthesise evidence.
2. Precision: using the right rules in the right context.
3. Multi step/complex problem solving: the ability to break down a task and use a broad range of appropriate strategies.

Examples of analysing in action:

Let me think again.

I want to take a closer look...

Am I sure this is right?

Why do I think...?

Is there another way to do this...

Points to Ponder



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Year 2

With HPL, reaching for the stars ★ ★

In Year 2, our HPL Champions did fabulous work to show empathy to their teachers by creating thoughtful posters showing their ideas. They also shared sign language challenges with their friends and spread awareness of the needs

