

Team Teaching; The benefits and challenges

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The benefits of team teaching

- Team teaching provides students with a richer learning experience as they get more individual attention.
- Team teaching can be particularly beneficial when it comes to project based work or practical work.
- Teachers get to observe their peers, gain new insights, pedagogical methods, and provide feedback for professional development.
- Pupils get a first-hand look at peer collaboration in action and the benefits of adults working collaboratively.
- It provides an opportunity for cross-curricular collaboration. For example, I brought music into a peer's French class for a series of lessons. The pupils found it unusual at first but it proved to be a great experience for everyone involved.

The challenges of team teaching

- Planning and evaluation proved to be the biggest challenge in my experience of team teaching. Managing to find time to actually sit down together to plan the lesson and then reflect upon it proved to be incredibly difficult due to timetabling.
- Issues can arise in relation to teaching styles and personality clashes. Teachers do not necessarily get to choose who they team teach with.
- Some teachers may not feel comfortable with the idea of another adult being present in their class.
- "...there's a cost to having team teaching...it could be a big luxury in terms of resources and the resources available."

Student Feedback

"We've never had two teachers in the class at once before so it was a bit strange at first. By the end it was really good because we could ask more questions and get more done."

"You could tell that the two of them get on well and that made the classes more fun."

"I don't like singing so bringing a music teacher into a French class felt like a waste of time!"

