

Student Teacher name: Bernadette Nugent
Date of Observation: 1/12/23
Time and No. of Observation: #9. 1:20
Class Profile: TY - common level (practical)
Duration of Lesson: 80 minutes

Professional teaching skills and ability

- NQT - very similar teaching style to myself, still stuck in the college taught way of teaching, everything is done by the book.
- Presented well, strong, clear voice and did best to keep students focused and engaged.
- Nice demonstrations - worked with small groups rather than the full class, setting others tasks in the meantime. Wondering if this is achievable with an examination year however - tasks didn't seem to have much purpose other than keeping other students busy while teacher engaged with a particular group. I feel this would have some push back at leaving cert.
- Confident in own abilities and in demonstrating - very easily rectified students mistakes in a calm and concise manner.

Classroom management

- Incredibly challenging group of transition year students. I have subbed this group a few times and have had issues with the same few students each time. Serious attitudes, three have been suspended so far and entire year group has been banned from any trips/tours outside of the school grounds due to behaviour.
- Clear boundaries set at the start of class - if students cannot use equipment properly, they will not be participating in the lesson. Teacher followed through with this when students started to misbehave. I sometimes struggle to punish students in this way when there is a particularly engaging lesson happening - but to maintain a classroom that you will be respected in this is a must.
- Unsure if I would have grouped students the way this teacher did. They allowed students to work with friends, which caused a lot of disruption and I feel could have been quite dangerous given the personalities of students in this class and the equipment being used. I would be very careful with what I allow this group to use and who with.

Presentation of learning content

- Teacher was thorough in explanations and in demonstrations. I would have liked to see a whole class demo instead of small groups, would have been more time efficient and would have been beneficial for me to see how teacher deals with behaviours during this.
- Teacher voice was not present during practical elements - they left students to their own devices while carrying out tasks.
- Pause points were present when teacher saw students making mistakes, drew whole class attention to what had gone wrong and have an explanation or demonstration,

whichever was necessary, on how to avoid this problem. I like this tactic as it eliminated the need for teacher to keep repeating themselves as lesson progressed and students were at different stages.

Effectiveness of planning

- Teacher was very well prepared, had lists of materials and equipment the students needed to get and place on desks ready and on the board before students came in.
- Learning intentions were written up on a side whiteboard and were visible throughout lesson.
- Teacher had planned this lesson almost to the minute, constantly giving students time reminders to keep them on track.
- Evaluation at the end recapped what had been done and assessed how well students had engaged.

Overall comments

- Very smooth lesson - dealt with challenging behaviours well and appropriately, while maintaining composure and respect for students.
- Planned to the minute, and this made for a very strict but structured atmosphere in the room. I could see that the teacher themselves was stressed by the time allowances they had given students to complete each task, so I don't think I could ever plan to this level of timing, it cuts creative flow and would make art, which is meant to be a more free flowing subject, far too structured.