

Teaching and Learning in a One Hour Class: Classroom Practice and Planning

Science



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Roscommon Community College



Overview

- School Background
- Transition to one hour classes
- Advantages and Challenges
- Subject Planning
- Teaching Practices & Strategies
- Impact on Teaching and Learning
- Differentiation
- Technology
- Homework/Classwork Balance
- Junior & Senior Cycle



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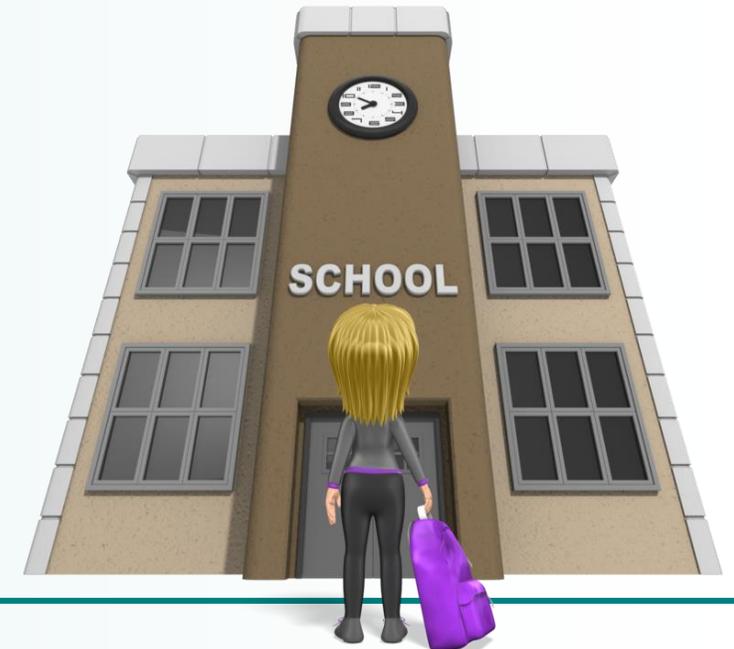
Roscommon Community College

- Roscommon Community College is a multi-denominational, coeducational DEIS school with students coming from both an urban and rural setting.
- Growing school with a current student body of 530 students.
- LCE with LCVP, Compulsory TY, Learning for Life Programme

Science Department

- 7 Science Staff
- 2 Science Labs
- 4 SC subjects – Physics/Chemistry/Ag Science

and Biology



Transition of One Hour Classes within our School

- Early days
- Introduced and motivated by Covid
- Review of one hour lessons
- Conflicting opinions on the value of one hour lessons
- Timetabling perspective - Typically
 - 2 x 1 hour lessons in JC
 - 3 x 1 hour lessons in SC



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Snapshot of Our School

Less books needed by students. More time for group work. More time to complete CBA in class. Less movement around school.

Several students will ask to use the bathroom in the course of a class. Students become unsettled after around 30 minutes. The teacher has to work much harder to maintain classroom discipline as a result.

Whilst 1-hour classes suits my subjects it doesn't suit all. I've seen the strain it has put on particular staff members causing unnecessary stress and anxiety.

More engagement from students in particular topic when it is not broken up over 2/3 40 min classes. More time for questions, explanation of homework and effective in depth teaching and learning.

More time to structure inclusive classrooms with a range of teaching and learning methodologies.

Too long, students disengaged.

Can be very material dense, particularly for junior classes.

It is more effective in terms of teaching and testing knowledge within the class resulting in perhaps less written homework and more focus on learning work.



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Advantages and Challenges of One Hour Lessons – My Perspective

Challenges

- Staff opinions
- Planning for differentiation
- Meeting less frequently

Advantages

- Effective Questioning
- More Discussion - development of scientific language
- Feedback
- Provides opportunities for more creative lessons – cross curricular
- More productive than 2 doubles and single
- When you have a class off you have longer off



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Happy Science Students



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Subject Planning for a One Hour Class



Long Term Planning

- SSE - LAOS
- Curriculum/Specifications
- Units of Learning
- Subject Plans
- CBAs & 6th year assessment procedures within other subjects

Short Term Planning

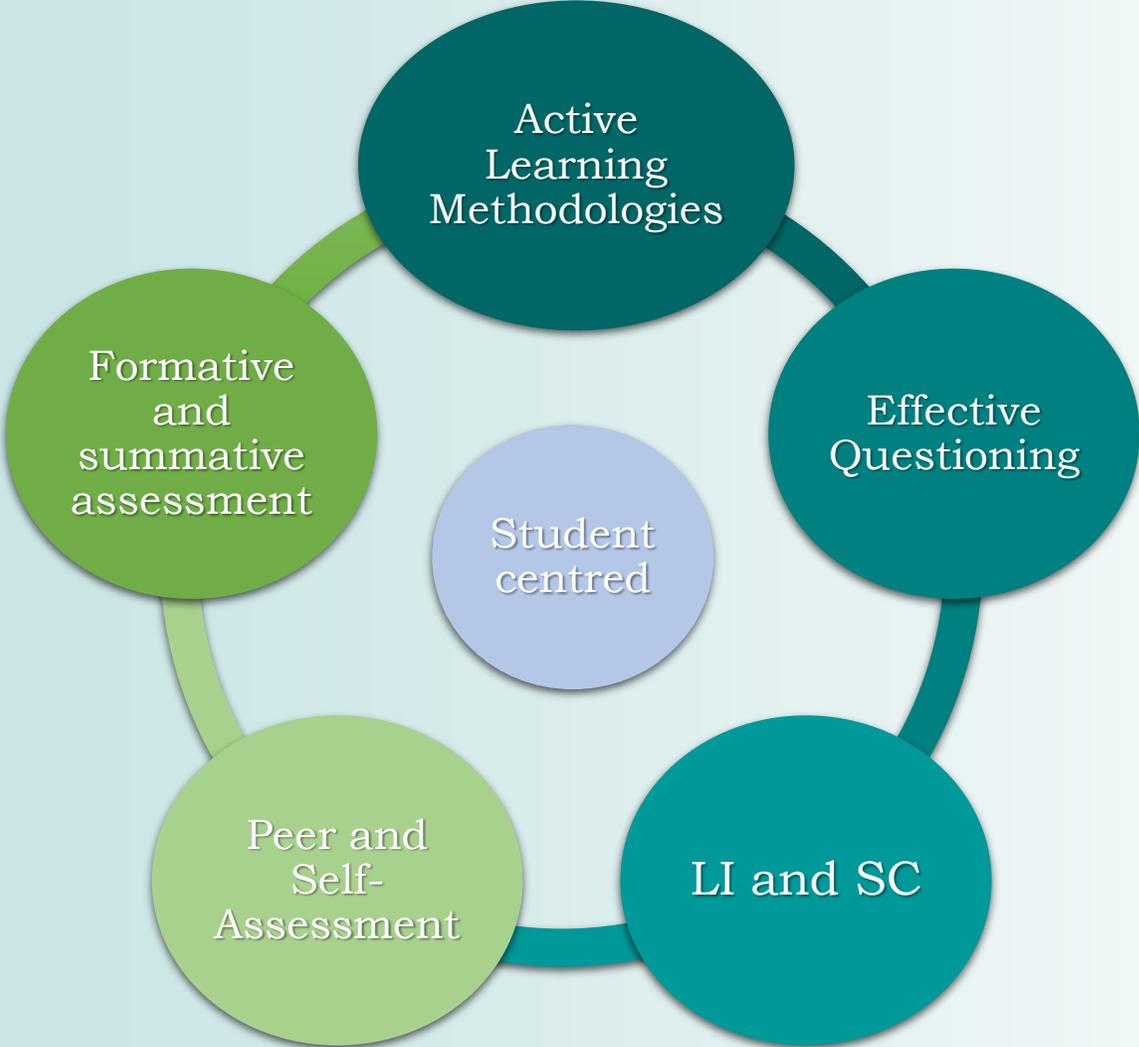
- Daily & Weekly planning
- Collaborative department – shared resources online
- Informed by the student voice & formative assessment



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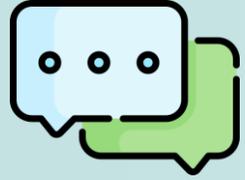
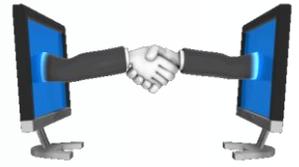
Teaching Practices



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Strategies I Found Useful



Exemplars

Think-pair-share

Model making

Placemat

Structured inquiry-based learning

3/2/1

Active role playing



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Impact on Teaching and Students' Learning Experiences

- More time for active learning methodologies
- Student centred learning experience
- Improved student outcomes and wellbeing
- Better engagement
- More engaged and authentic homework experience
- Student voice and choice
- More opportunities for authentic engagement with ICT



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Differentiation

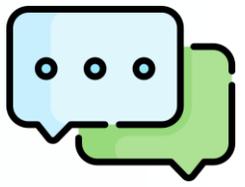
- Link with the SEN team
- Clear identification of students needs
- A wide range of meaningful teaching and learning strategies
- Inclusion of active learning methodologies and formative assessment
- Teaching content in chunks
- Pair and groupwork



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Snapshot from the SEN Team



Less Changes

Safer space

Better pacing

More varied teaching and learning

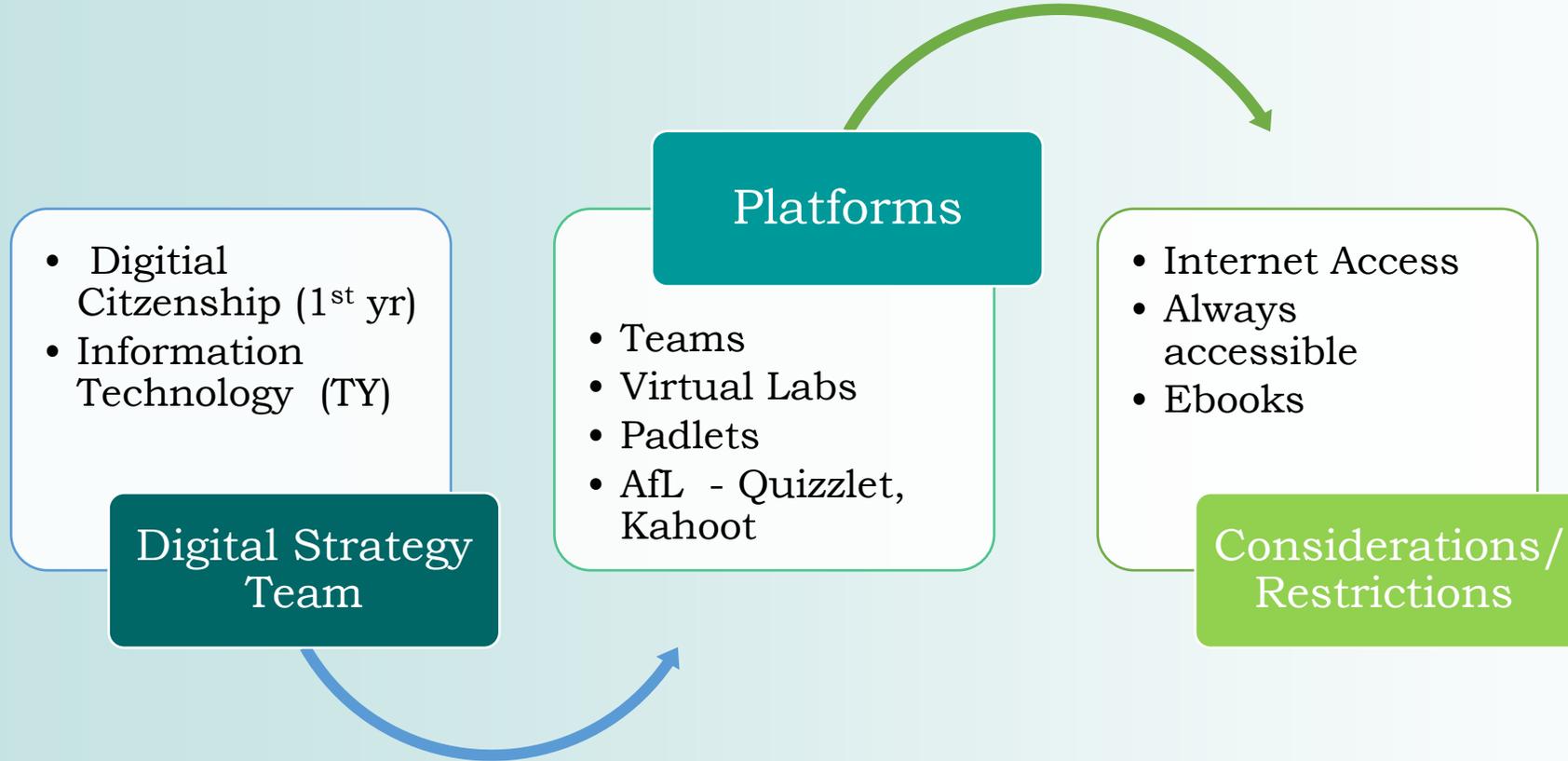
Relaxation time



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Use of Technology



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Homework/Classroom Work

- What is the purpose of homework?
- What is effective homework?
- How much is enough?
- Success criteria and feedback
- Alternative homework
 - More authentic engagement with homework
- Start in school to ask questions, check their readiness to complete
- Homework differentiation/Homework Club



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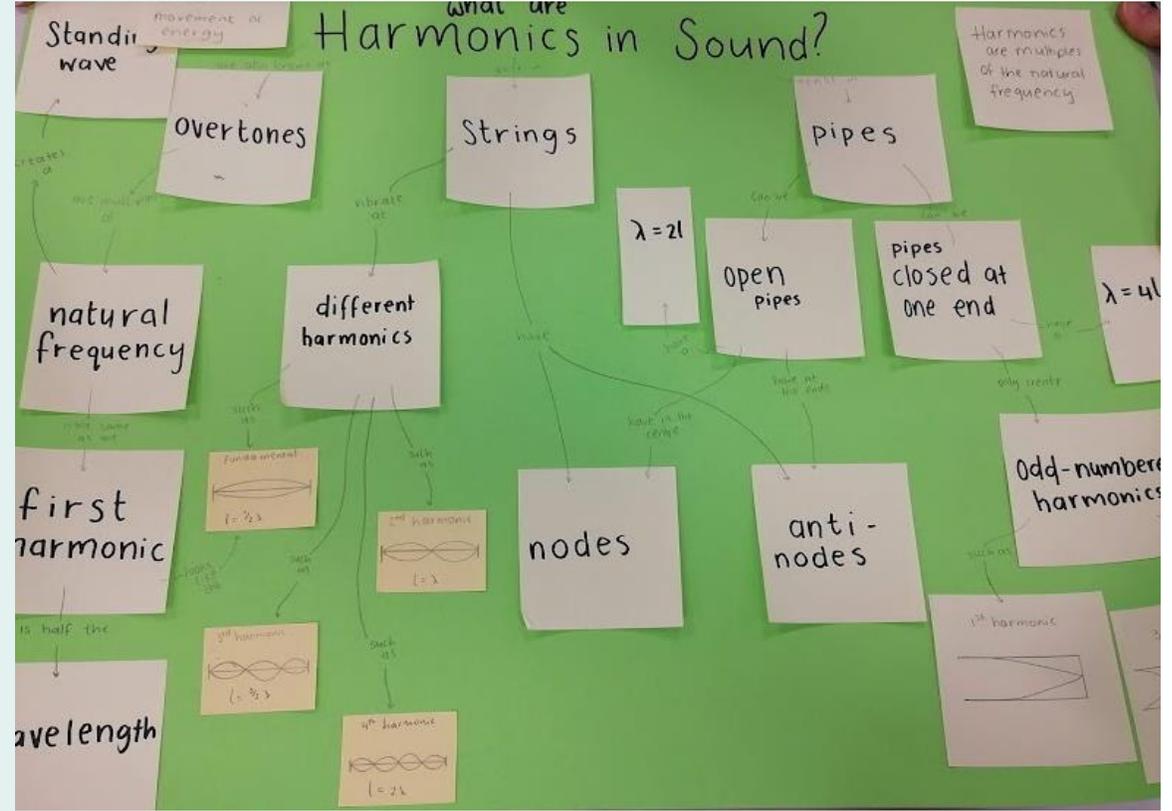
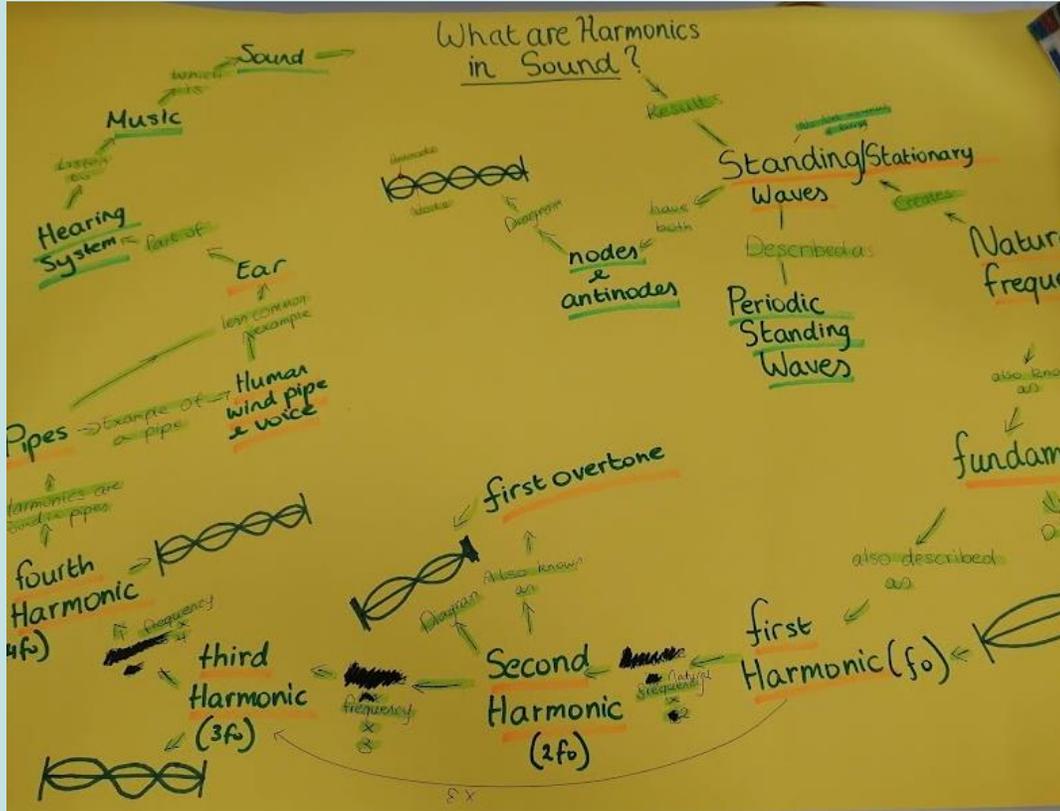
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Homework Strategies



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Concept Maps



Junior Cycle and Senior Cycle

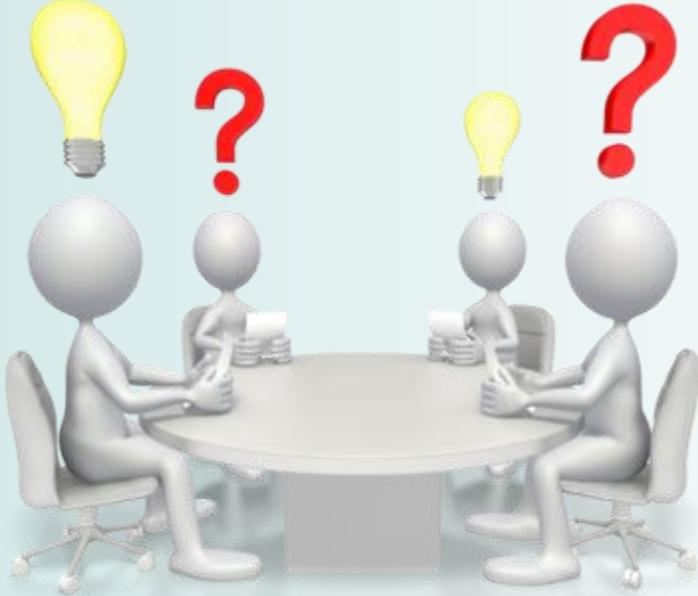
Junior Cycle	Senior Cycle
Directed by learning outcomes	Syllabus driven*
More scope for active learning methodologies and formative assessment	More scope for student lead discussions and learning
Activating the key skills and SOL	Covering the content



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Questions and Answers



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