Fostering a Curious Mindset

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BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

- Independent, Uniting girls school, Prep - Year 12
- Principles: *Respect*, *Courage*, *Excellence*, *Optimism* & *Compassion*
- Positive Education School
- Growth Mindset culture

Common concerns:

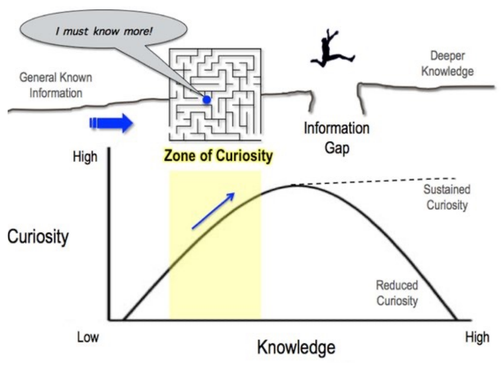
- Performance oriented.
- Passive, compliant, risk adverse.
- Ineffective feedback engagement.
- Growing student anxiety

Funnelling focus: <u>CURIOSITY</u> – "a physiological state that includes three components :

- Recognition of an information gap.
- Anticipation that it may be possible to close it.
- An intrinsically motivated desire to do so." (Pekrun, 2019, p. 905)

Promoting Curiosity:

- ✓ Encourages a student-centred feedback model
- ✓ Fosters knowledge building and risk taking
- ✓ Supports flexible, adaptable, growth mindset.
- ✓ Important contributor to academic achievement.



Loewenstein's Information-gap perspective of curiosity (p. 89)

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

To what extent are our students curious?

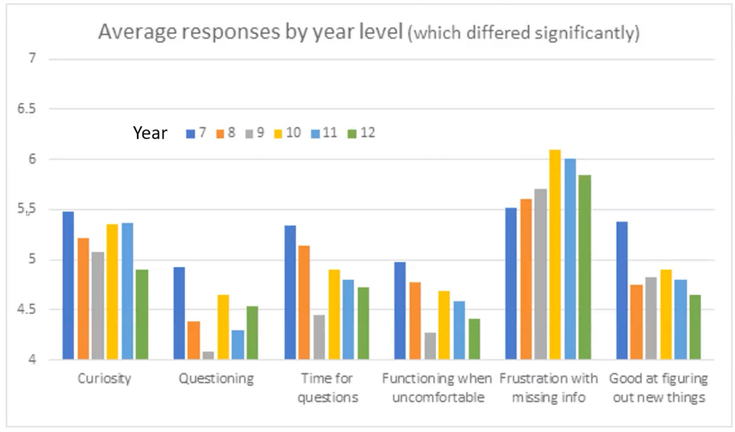
How can learning experiences be designed to promote student curiosity across subjects in Years 7 – 12?

METHODS

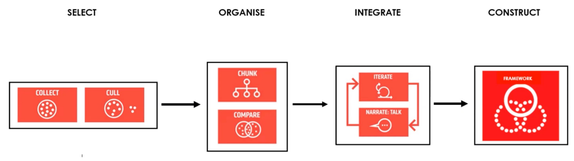
	Phase 1	Phase 2
Participants	Students Years 7-12	Teachers
Procedure	Survey	Focus groups
Process	Mentor group time, Term 2, 2021	Meetings
Measures	Scale: 1= strongly disagree to 7 = strongly agree • I find it fascinating to learn new information. • I really like to ask questions about all sorts of things. • I feel frustrated if I can't figure out the solution to a problem, so I work harder to solve it.	

ANALYSIS & RESULTS

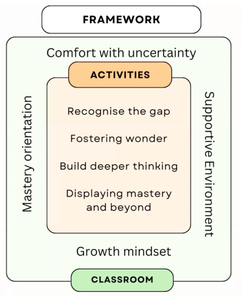
Phase 1: Preliminary Findings



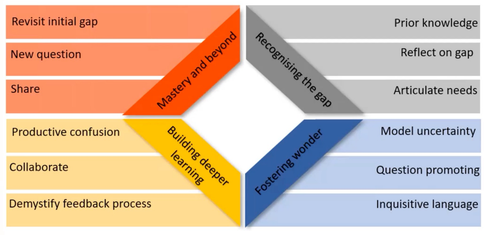
Phase 2: Teacher Focus Groups



Adapted process from Caviglioli & Goodwin, 2021



Category Criteria



RESULTS

Recognising the Gap

Criteria:	Strategy Examples:
• Identify prior knowledge • Reflect on information and/or skills gap • Articulate their needs going forward	• Give one, get one • See, think, wonder • Four corners

Fostering Wonder

Criteria:	Strategy Examples:
• Model comfort with uncertainty • Safe environment for questioning asking • Inquisitive and open-ended language	• Expanding image • Question Formulation Technique (QFT) • Three Acts

Building Deeper Thinking

Criteria:	Strategy Examples:
• Facilitate product confusion • Collaborate with peers and share expertise • Demystify the draft and feedback process	• Problem based learning • Peer feedback conference • Socrative circles

Mastery & Beyond

Criteria:	Strategy Examples:
• Revisit the initial gap in knowledge • Identify new questions moving forward • Sharing their new knowledge	• Showcasing & Debating • Future problem solving • Orbispace

CONCLUSIONS & NEXT STEPS

Key Learnings:

- Don't assume
- Our students are curious, but risk adverse
- Teachers have strategies
- Limited research in curiosity for classroom teachers

Next Steps:

- General classroom environment
- Curious mindset and motivation
- Intervention-based study
- Curiosity Profiles

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