

## Teacher Training

Matilda Portman is a trainee teacher, studying for her PGCE with the University of Wolverhampton. She studies full-time with a group who are at the university for two days a week, and on placement with a local college for the other three. On Wednesday afternoons, Matilda teaches a class of AS level students in Leisure Studies. The class is often boisterous after lunch; however Matilda usually quiets them down quickly.

This Wednesday however, the class does not quieten down as normal and Matilda struggles to teach her class. After 40 minutes Matilda has reached her limit and walks out. The class seemed very confrontational to her and the session is too much for her to cope with.

Matilda is faced with a serious problem. She has to teach the class again the next day and will not have the opportunity to talk with her university lecturers; however she is aware that she needs the advice of her peers and teachers.

Matilda and her class share a collaborative blog. Each of them contributes with experiences they have had in classes. They also share comments and reflections on each-others contributions. Matilda uses this blog to contact her class and ask for their support.

During the evening her peers give her advice about dealing with the next class and also how she could have dealt with the previous one more effectively. Matilda and her group are able to fully discuss the issues and to find solutions. Matilda specifically avoids mentioning any students by name.



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On Thursday morning Matilda takes the Leisure Studies class again and follows up on the advice she received. The session goes much more smoothly and her class remains peaceful and attentive throughout.

On Friday Matilda and her group are at university. She raises the issues she faced, the support she received and the success of the second session. The class uses the blog as an example case study and the tutor highlights the theories which relate to the advice Matilda received and acted upon. The class discusses the outcomes before Matilda and her cohort send the blog to their CPD records along with notes from the class discussion.