

A Pivoting Partnership – Student Mentors Trying to Engage: a Tale of Trial & Error



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CREATING THE PARTNERSHIP

Elective partnership



10 partners -> 9



Module Design



Improving blended learning



MENTORS

Each mentor attached to a seminar group of first year students.



7 face-to-face classes, 1 online




Why we thought it would help?

TIPS FROM OUR 2ND YEAR STUDENT MENTORS


LAW & SOCIETY (LW1LAS)

WITH THANKS TO: KATHERINE, ELLIE, HAFSAH, MEG, BETHANY P, BETHANY C & ANAM

I don't know what they're learning but they're trying their best







LECTURES & REQUIRED READING

-  DON'T SPEND TOO LONG ON WATCHING LECTURE VIDEOS
-  DO THE READING - IT DOES HELP. TRY READING AN ARTICLE THEN GO BACK TO THE TEXTBOOK
-  DON'T IGNORE THE WIDER READING AS IT DEEPENS YOUR KNOWLEDGE




MAKING NOTES

-  ALWAYS NOTE THE PAGE NUMBERS WHEN MAKING NOTES
-  TRY READING AN ARTICLE THEN GO BACK TO THE TEXTBOOK
-  DON'T DO COLOURING IN WHERE YOU HIGHLIGHT EVERY WORD! DON'T JUST COPY OUT WHAT YOU ARE READING INTO YOUR NOTES

TIME MANAGEMENT

-  Plan your time & try not to allow tasks to pile up - but be realistic!
-  Know when you work best during the day & focus at that time
-  Plan what to do & allocate to different days e.g. a module a day, equal time for each module
-  Schedule an "end" time for your work each day

FOCUSING

-  TURN OFF THE WIFI/YOUR PHONE & MUTE
-  HIDE YOUR PHONE WHILE YOU ARE WORKING
-  USE APPS E.G. FOREST TO STOP YOU CHECKING YOUR PHONE

ASSESSMENTS

-  DON'T LEAVE ESSAYS UNTIL THE NIGHT BEFORE THE DEADLINE!
-  DO THE FORMATIVE WORK - IT HELPS YOU TO IMPROVE
-  ONCE YOU HAVE YOUR FEEDBACK, WRITE IT ON A POST-IT NOTE & REFER TO IT WHEN YOU DO THE NEXT PIECE OF WORK

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ONLINE MEET THE MENTORS SESSION

More mentors than students

Good advice

Pivot! – created "tips" document

1

2

3

4

5

6

5



WHAT HAPPENED NEXT...

Mentors attended classes for poster presentation sessions



Set up WhatsApp groups



Shared email addresses



Mentor profiles shared on VLE

**ONE SUCCESSFUL
GROUP...
EVERYONE ELSE
TRYING TO ENGAGE**





PRE-CHRISTMAS PARTNERSHIP DEBRIEF

Time to take stock

Clearly not working

Pivot!



STUDENT PARTNERS AS RESEARCHERS

Explore the
needs of First
Years



What are the
barriers to
learning?



SEEKING VOLUNTEERS TO EXPLORE THE EXPERIENCE OF FIRST YEARS

Staff got students to sign up in class as volunteers

Offering refreshments as an inducement

Passed the volunteer lists to the student partners




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RESEARCH INSIGHTS



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An open notebook lies on a dark wooden surface. To its left is a white ceramic mug filled with dark coffee. Further left are several pinecones and a wooden spoon. The notebook's left page features the following text in bold, black, sans-serif font:

**FAILURE
IS NOT
THE OPPOSITE OF
SUCCESS. IT IS
PART
OF SUCCESS.**

SUCCESSSES?



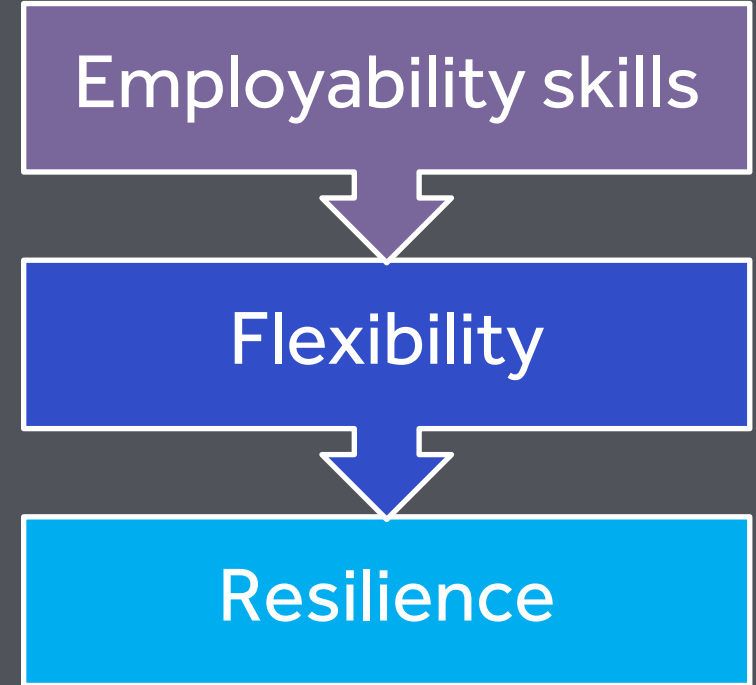
Indirect



Ideas for how to
do better in
future



BENEFITS OF WORKING IN A PARTNERSHIP FOR THE STUDENT PARTNERS





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ANY QUESTIONS?