

POSSIBLE PROMPTS FOR INSTRUCTIONAL COACHING

Use some of these conversational prompts to help have effective conversations before, during and after the observation. Select a few that seem most helpful – you don't have to use them all!

PRE-OBSERVATION MEETING

- Which [group/two students/three students] could we focus on in today's observation?
- Why are they of particular importance to you?
- What does their current learning and behaviour look like? Do you have evidence to share? (e.g. examples of their work, video clips, test papers and scores) Why is this of particular importance?
- What strategies have you tried before now? What made you try those strategies? How much impact did they have... and how do you know?
- On a scale of 1 to 10, how close is their current learning and behaviour to your ideal?
- What would it look like if they were closer 10? What evidence would you see in observation, in dialogue and in their work?
- What strategies are you planning on trying in the lesson I'm going to observe? What's your thinking behind this?
- What evidence should I gather to help us learn if this strategy has been successful?.

POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL PROMPTS

- Would it be okay if I offer another option as a strategy to try? May I show you how I'd do this? or Could we watch this strategy in action [on a video/in your colleague's lesson]? or
- What if we planned to co-teach this part of the lesson and I try this strategy out first and you do it the second time?
- My reflection is that it's a really big change you're looking for. What if we break it down into steps – what would the first step look like?
- Maybe the learning issue that you're describing here is a symptom of something deeper – if that's the case, what might that be?
- How confident are you about this strategy on a scale of 1 to 10? What could I do to help nudge that toward 10?
- Let's try a 'pre-mortem' and imagine that we're in the post-observation meeting and it had all gone wrong. What do you imagine we'd be looking at as the reasons why the lesson went wrong?.

POST-OBSERVATION MEETING

- Let's start with what went well – what would you list as the three biggest successes? What about the things that didn't go so well?
- Thinking of our target group, last time you scored their learning as X, what number did that change to in this last lesson, and why?
- Did you hit your goal? Why do you think that is?
- Do you want to stick with the same goal for the next observation? [If yes] Is there anything other evidence you need to find if you meet it? [If no] Why is this new goal the right one?
- Do you want to stick with the same strategy? [If yes] How could you improve next time? [If no] Why do you think this strategy is a better one?.

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