A Few Thoughts

1) Make a note of things as they crop up – don't rely on memory afterwards.

2) Praise more often than chastise, ratio 3-1 at least.

3) If you have to chastise a student, look for the earliest opportunity afterwards to praise that student.

4) Have a seating plan, initially alphabetical order boy/girl.

5) Have Science classroom rules, reason for the rules and consequences for breaking the rules. Spend time going over the Science classroom rules and explaining the need for them (don't just give them the rules). Time spent initially discussing the rules is recouped 10 fold later on.

6) Written instructions on the board as the students walk in are often more effective than words, particularly if you silently direct them with your hand to look at the board.

7) Avoid shouting or losing your temper: a smile is more effective than a shout.

8) At the end of each lesson check the state of the room for paper, apparatus not put away etc. (Tell the students beforehand that the room will be checked). Always allow plenty of time to clear up so you can do your 'room check'. The students soon realise a check is done and leave things tidy. (Always leave the board clean too).

9) When giving anything out write it on the board so it is visible to all. That way the students are less likely to take anything.

10) I used to put 'Consequences' on the board with numbers 1 to 4 and write students' names next to the number they had reached. That stopped students arguing what number they had reached. (See behaviour management documents).

11) My philosophy has always been that learning should be fun and pupils learn better if they feel they have some control over what they learn: the internet now allows pupils to learn independently and also away from school. From my own experience, pupils who appeared disinterested in class would often tell me that they had been studying or revising from my website at home.

Jim 24 July 2010