

# CHALLENGING OUR MORE ABLE



**While delivering CPD to teachers in Scotland, a teacher told me, "I know I need to provide more challenge for my more able, but I just don't know how or where I'll find the time to create more challenging stuff for them."**

This opened up a really valuable dialogue that I would like to share with you.

### **Here's the thing...**

We can easily fall into the trap of thinking that, in order to provide more challenge for our more able, we need to start teaching what's on the year above's curriculum or spends hours creating loads more 'stuff' for them to do.

This is not the case at all. Rather, it is an opportunity to encourage pupils to 'go deeper' in their learnings &/or transfer skills and strategies into other areas they may find particularly interesting.

Setting these sorts of challenges requires little work by the teacher. Rather, it is the pupil who is expected to do the 'heavy lifting' in their learning.

For example: The class learning has been around Henry VIII (gaining knowledge) and presenting an

argument for whether or not you think he was a good King (persuasive writing).

To challenge the more able, you may task them with...

- \* gaining knowledge about a different monarch in history, of their own choosing (using their research skills).

- \* presenting an argument as to whether or not that monarch was a good King or Queen & comparing him/her with Henry VIII (extended persuasive writing)

- \* creating an argument that supports the opposite view of Henry VIII than the first one they presented (challenging the mind to take a different stance).

I'm sure there are many others you would think of.

The point here is that you are encouraging the pupils to apply their skills to different contexts & encouraging them to take command of their learning, by building in greater choice & independence.

None of this requires hard work for the teacher (Weehear! 😊) and encourages continued, enthused engagement of our more able pupils.

**To your success!**

**Hil**