

Myth 7: “The only feedback that counts is written feedback.”

The Truth

Feedback is crucial for students to achieve their potential. The Sutton Trust report shows that effective feedback can make a difference of 8 months to a student's progress.

At The Four Stones MAT, we believe that if we want to provide effective feedback to a student that will support them to move forward, we need to plan activities and assessments that will provide us with specific information. These activities focus on misconceptions, gaps in learning, areas of development and making students' thinking visible. We recognise that effective feedback is provided in various ways such as verbal, written, whole-class, peer and self-feedback. Most importantly, research shows that instant feedback, such as verbal and next lesson feedback, is most valuable and has a greater impact on progress because it means that mistakes and errors are corrected quickly.

When teachers assess students during lessons and when taking in work, a key focus is the distinction between 'errors' and 'mistakes'. We know that mistakes are what students are capable of doing but haven't done this time, whereas errors demonstrate that students have answered incorrectly due to a misconception or lack of mastery. We draw students' attention to mistakes for self-correction, and recap / reteach the knowledge and content where errors have occurred.

What you will see in practice:

- Feedback lessons
- Teacher circulation
- Verbal 1:1 feedback
- Small group feedback
- Whole-class feedback
- Self-assessment opportunities
- Use of success criteria

Did you know?

During lessons, we place a focus on improving students by explicitly teaching self-assessment skills, as this has a much bigger impact on learning than improving individual pieces of work. It is essential that we equip students with the ability to provide themselves with feedback by asking students to find and correct mistakes; highlighting the number of errors in a student's work, and asking them to find them; providing a number of statements and next steps for students to identify which one applies to them and their work.

Further info

