



Getting Started with AFL in Science Transcription: Video 1

Interviewees

Fatema Zaidi

Cambridge trainer and Science teacher

Frances Tan

Cambridge trainer and Science teacher

Zubair Anis

Cambridge trainer and Science teacher

Why is AFL important in Science lessons?

Fatema Zaidi

Through assessment for learning, learners can recognise their current level of achievement in relation to the learning outcomes and the success criteria and receive feedback from their teachers about how to improve and you know, how to progress in their learning.

Frances Tan

Sometimes concepts are abstract and scientific terminologies, they're very specific and they're not found in everyday vocabulary, like for example, 'plasmolysis', 'titration', 'enthalpy', 'centripetal acceleration'. So these are not words that are seen everyday and one thing about science is, a lot of terms are interconnected and this is going to be a challenge for learners whose first language isn't English. And because all these concepts are interlinked, it's very important that learners actually know what those terms really mean and identify misconceptions and gaps before we move on to other things. That is why assessment for learning is really very important because we need to know where they are and then move on from there.

Fatema Zaidi

There is compelling evidence from research that shows that assessment for learning and formative feedback has a significant impact on raising student achievement.

Zubair Anis

The amazing thing about AFL is that it helps the low-achieving students become high achievers. So it's not a race of As and A*s, it's actually helping those who need it the most.

Frances Tan

I think also in terms of science, there's a lot of data presentation and we tend to present data in graphs, in technical drawings or we could sometimes be writing out our explanations. And I think it is important for students to know what makes a good graph, what makes a great answer. And if teachers could provide a rubric, you know. I mean, in terms of marking, we always have marking schemes and if students could be shown what actually is expected of them, they would know how to work towards achieving the success criteria.

Zubair Anis

It helps develop and foster such a positive relationship between the teacher and the learner in the classroom, that now they're looking forward to more opportunities when they can be provided feedback and they would then go as close as possible to the success criteria that they need to achieve.

Fatema Zaidi

It's not about the evidence that is being gathered, it's how that evidence is used, because it's not just about gathering data and sitting on it, it's really how a teacher decides to use that to inform her teaching practice and how learners use it to, you know, to sort of, realise what their next steps should be. So I think that's a very important aspect for assessment for learning and that's how it's so distinct to assessment of learning.