

2.1 Thursday

Dear Not-yet-End of Course People,

Yesterday I overheard (no, I did not eavesdrop) one of our group talking about this course in the past tense. I find this as natural as it is reprehensible. The course does end at 3.30 tomorrow afternoon, and with clanging finality, but we have oodles more work to do before then. This morning we start the last fifth of the course. Imagine you were a thrifty, not to say mean, Scot, and think of how much a fifth of this course is costing you, or your local government or the EU!

I will have no truck with the British way of letting a course run down at the end. In state schools the last week of each term is largely a waste of time. B█ used to beg me to let him bunk off school at such times "They just plonk us down in front of the same tired old videos" he would argue and I fear I was not able to muster much by way of counter argument. Maybe I have been a weak father with this last of three?

To increase the richness of K█ and A█'s presentations I am going to ask them to use the "buzz group" technique which guarantees much more lively audience participation.

The speaker expounds their theme for 3-5 minutes and then asks us to work in threes, reacting to what has been said and seeing how and how much we have understood it. They then take questions, following which they move on to the next bit of what they have to say.

This way of working can be used in any subject and is particularly good when dealing with the close-knit reasoning you get in science and maths.

As preparation for tomorrow's first period work, can I ask you each to go back over your language notes as we will be doing a spot of revision in class.

Can I also ask you to each read a different article on the UK class system as well as one central article I hope everybody will get under their belts. This later piece explains how the government views the class system.

Warmly yours

Mario



Ps 1: this letter could be seen as a bit of classical "teacher-ific" (to use the Davis term) pep talk.

Ps 2. During the techniques feed across with the other group A█ will be running a language session for those in Group B who do not teach language. U█ and H█ you may want to join them? Your choice.