

From GCSE's to Further Education : Managing Transition



Lesson 2

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In this lesson you will think about:

1. Working in bigger groups
2. Independent learning
3. Having Study periods ('free' lessons)
4. Working with teachers



Working in Bigger Groups



When you go on to college you will probably be working in a bigger group than you are used to at the PRU. Make a list of all the pros and cons of having lessons with bigger groups of students Write your ideas down on a piece of paper. Now do the same for working in small groups:

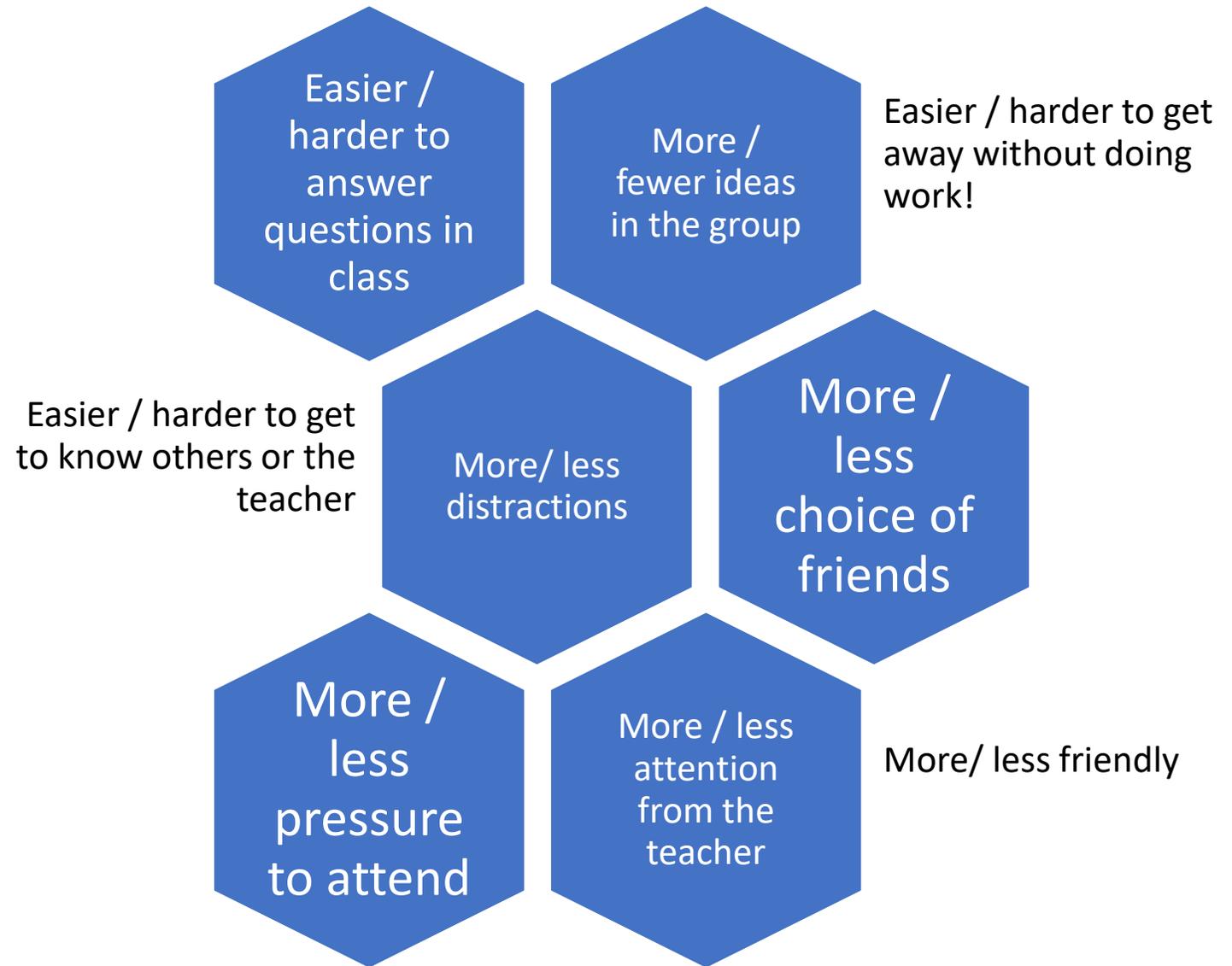
	Pros (advantages)	Cons (disadvantages)
Big groups		
Small groups		

So what sort of ideas did you come up with?

Here are some more ideas about things that may be different between small and large groups. How many were on your list? Look at each one and discuss them with your teacher.

There are advantages and disadvantages of both ways of working. In larger groups you get less attention from the teacher but have more friends to share more ideas with. It can be more daunting to answer questions in front of big groups to start with, but you get used to it. It might be easier to get away with doing less work in a big group but that will not help you and the teacher will soon spot this!

Is there anything that is worrying you about working in a bigger group? Talk to your teacher about it. Look at where you may be able to get support at college if you think it may be an issue.



Independent Learning

One of the exciting things about going to college is the amount of freedom you are given. For the first time you will have some lessons where you can decide how you want to use them. They are called **study periods** but some people call them 'free' periods.

Here are some questions to think about:

1. Why do you think Colleges allow students more freedom than school does?
2. Do you think this is a good thing or not? Why?
3. Look at these photos of student in their study ('free') periods. What can you see in the pictures? What do you think about what's happening in each of the photos?



Think about why you are going to college and what you want to gain from it?

To learn something new? To get into a particular job? To go on to University or further study?

Study Periods

There are lots of things you could do in your study periods

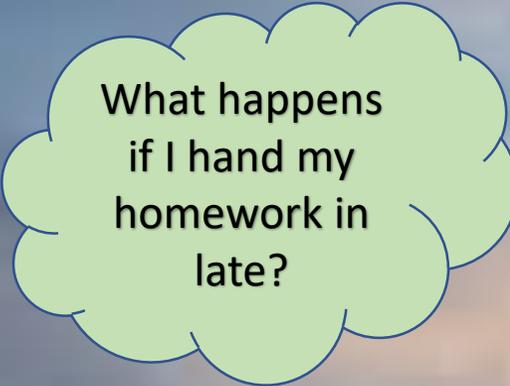
Look at the study period true or false quiz in the careers folder

Think about each of these statements and decide if they are true or false. Discuss your answers with your teacher afterwards....





Remember 'free' periods are really study periods! They are there to give you time to do extra work to help you. At first you may decide to use them to help you get to know other students, and that's Ok, but you will soon find that you need the time to keep up with your studies. Study periods are not meant to be used for shopping or socializing. If you do though you will need to make up the time after school so it's better to get into good habits from the start!



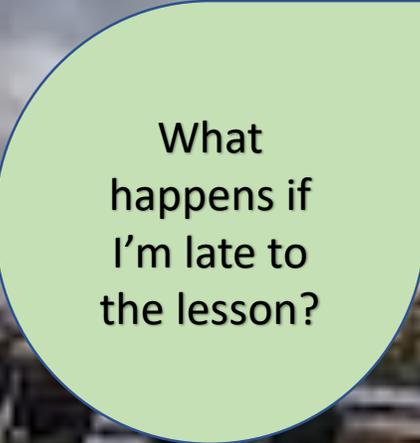
What happens if I hand my homework in late?

Working with Teachers

Think about how you work with teachers at school now.

What things do you think might be the same and what might be different in the way you work with teachers at college?

Make a list of similarities and differences then discuss them with your teacher



What happens if I'm late to the lesson?



How do I address my teacher?



What happens if I forget my equipment?

At college, you will have subject teachers and a personal tutor. You may also work with the student welfare officer, if you have any particular needs. One of the main differences you may find at first is that teachers will ask you to call them by their first names. This may seem strange at first but it is getting you used to working with other adults when you leave college.



Another main difference is that it is up to you to do homework and hand it in on time. Teachers are not likely to chase you for it, so you need to be responsible for making sure work is done. You will be the only person losing out if you do not do it, and it may mean you cannot complete your course.



So , now that you have looked at how things might be similar or different at college compared to school in terms of:

- Group Size
- Independent learning
- Working with Teachers.....



What things are you looking Forward to when you go to College?

What things are you concerned about?

Who can you ask to help you with these concerns?

