# Exploring Creativity and Imagination: Tips sheet

Try out some of the ideas explored in the game by planning a creative thinking activity with your students. You can try this with any topic, in any subject. Try to think of a problem that is relevant to your students. The aim is make them excited about finding new and original solutions!

## Work in small groups

- Students can share knowledge and bounce ideas off each other.
- It can help nervous students build their confidence.
- A good group size is four or five students because everyone can be heard, but there will be a good mix of skills.

## Encourage lots of ideas

- Focus on quantity – think BIG!
- Don't worry whether ideas could work at this stage, this comes later.

## Build on each other's ideas

- The best ideas are often a collaborative effort.
- Ask groups to swap their lists of ideas and see if they can add anything to the other group's suggestions.

## Find new ways of looking at things

- When students start running out of ideas, a simple change can help us refocus.
- Even just standing up can improve blood flow to the brain.
- Or try asking students to close their eyes and breathe in and out slowly as you count to ten.

## Encourage imagination

- Ask students for the most exciting ideas they can think of, even if they could never work.
- Impossible ideas can usually be shaped into something that is possible, but still exciting.

## Challenge students to think differently

- If you notice students thinking in a narrow way, you can help encourage a wider range of ideas so that opportunities aren't missed.
- Asking the right question can help students to think in different ways. You could ask:
  'What if…?'
  'What else…?'
  'Could you…?'
  'Is there another way to...?'.

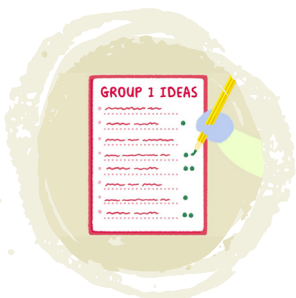## Encourage students to take the lead

- Practising creative thinking is a way for your students to take the lead, while you become the guide.
- It's important for students to have the freedom to develop and evaluate their own ideas.
- These are some of the skills your students will need in the future.

## Develop logical thinking

- Ask groups to think of criteria for rating the ideas, e.g:
  'Cost – is the cost of doing this realistic?'
  'Time – can we do this in the time available?'
  'Quality – can we do this to the right standard?'
- As they discuss each idea, students can start to add more details to potential solutions.
- Sometimes combining different ideas leads to a great solution.

## Let students follow their emotions

- Sometimes the best way to judge ideas is to see which one gets students most excited.
- Exciting but impossible ideas can always be reshaped into something that works. It's much more difficult to make an average idea great.
- Ask groups to swap their lists of suggestions and vote on their favourite ideas, using pencil dots.
- Each student gets three votes and the overall favourite idea is the one with the most votes.

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