

What Scotland Learned Exemplar

What specific activities did you do over lockdown that you wish to highlight? (max 200 words)

I was keen that my students continued with learning even though the school was closed. Some of my students were learning online so I wanted keep that momentum going by creating some activities for them to apply in a real life context. I had taught PSE for many years now and have tried to get across to my students the importance of independent learning and preparing for life after school. I decided that each day, students would take part in a household activity that they hadn't done before and think of the skills that they would develop as a result. So for the first time, students used a washing machine, ironed clothes for themselves (with the plug in), changed a light bulb and cooked a meal for their family on a budget. There were many examples of the activities that students shared with each other.

Who did it involve, including partners or other community organisations? (max 50 words)

It only involved students and their family members depending on the activity.

What difference did this make? (max 200 words)

Many of my students have always been slightly anxious leaving school and living in student halls if they go to college and university. The activities, although some might be perceived as basic, really provided them with the opportunity of trying out things independently. It was really interesting for them to share their experiences with their peers and indeed a few family members even commented on their children doing things themselves for the first time. I guess my students are certainly more aware of the skills they need – time management, organisational skills, financial skills, etc than ever more because they applied them in real life contexts. A few students who cooked a dinner for the first time, certainly shared their experience of managing time and cooking within defined budget. They are certainly more aware of what life might be like living independently.

How has this changed your outlook, practice, work and how might this have an impact long term? (max 200 words)

My practice has changed in the respect that my planning for activities now has a greater focus on real life contexts. My students have certainly taken greater responsibility for household activities. In fact, one of them for the first time has a greater appreciation of multi-tasking when they were cooking three different foods at the one time. They are much more independent for doing things themselves and actually for other people. I think lockdown has in some respects allowed them to spend more time with their family and see for themselves first hand everything that is done for them. This dependency that some of them had has changed their outlook which is great.