

Learning away from the screen

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Tired of setting work online?

We've collated some ideas for how to get your students learning, but far away from the screen.

Here are some suggestions of activities that you could set for your pupils:

1. Create mini-books

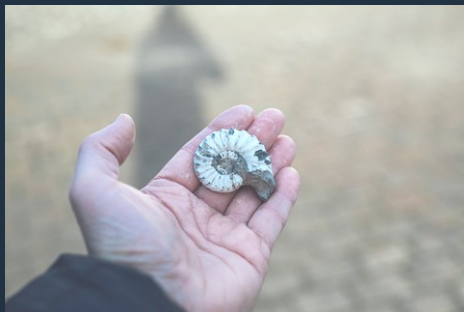
Here is a video that you can send to out on how to make your own mini-books. Pause at regular intervals as it's quite fast! A fun way to describe, narrate or explain.

EG: English – an inventive way to do a piece of creative writing or create a poem. To extend, each page must include a particular element.

3. Scavenger hunt

Students take pictures/ draw/write a list of what they find. You can develop this by students then writing a paragraph about each item.

EG: DT – find examples around the house / in your local town of an element of woodwork or graphic design.



2. Work from audio

Teacher records themselves explaining / introducing a topic / vocabulary & pupils must create / draw / learn from what they hear.

EG: Art – teacher explains a concept & students have to listen carefully to know what to replicate.

4. Draw comic strip / storyboard

Students can draw it themselves—with boxes for texts & images—or can download or copy this [*template*](#).

EG: Drama – to recreate a plot from a play & students can draw arrows & annotations on the accompanying pictures / text.



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Please note: all of these ideas can be applied to most curriculum subjects.

5. Make flashcards & test a friend

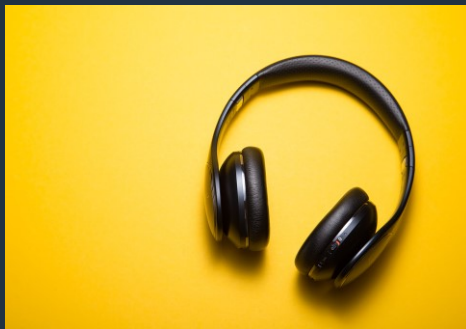
They can use pre-made ones or create their own flashcards. Use of colours to differentiate is also very beneficial. It's crucial that they have interaction & output with the flashcards, not just re-writing their textbooks.

EG: Computing – learn to summarise key information & interact with the information on the flashcards. Then make the most of phone calls / Teams breakout rooms to test each other.

7. Design a song / poem

Students can be really creative & it's great for their memory. I recommend *Horrible Histories* if they need some excellent inspiration.

EG: History – helps students to memorise important figures and dates. If any student are particularly confident, they could share theirs!



6. Create acrostic posters

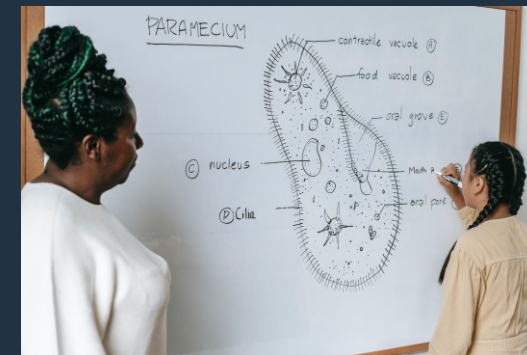
A poem where a word is written vertically & each line of the word is used to create another sentence. Students can create a poster with pictures & use dictionaries to extend themselves. *See here for some examples.*

EG: Languages – take a word, like an animal, and students need to write adjectives to describe the animal, all in the target language.

8. Be the teacher

Student teaches their audience (eg family member). The audience can then write feedback points – what they learnt & what needs to be made clearer. A beneficial way to help students understand what they need to learn.

EG: Maths – explain a concept using available resources then try out the activity with the audience.



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Make sure to click on all hyperlinks that look like this to visit useful websites!

9. Produce a word search / crossword

A list of relevant terms can be provided or used so that students can create a word search or crossword. They can even swap with a partner & create answer sheets. Here is a template if needed.

EG: Science – students must create one of these using terms or relevant definitions that they've learnt from a topic. They could then send each other their work & play their partner's creation.

11. Cook up a storm

Allows students to research & be independent. Could make it into a competition if they send in photos. To extend, they could write their own recipes or design a poster for it, related to your subject.

EG: Geography – students could create a plate of food for a country that they are currently learning about.



10. Engage your ears

Students write their reactions to a piece of music, relevant to what you're studying. Here is an example from Disney Pixar's Coco about how the same song, performed three unique ways, can evoke very different feelings.

EG: Music – students listen to a piece of music with their eyes shut then must write / draw their reactions – with eyes open! This is so useful for students to reflect & engage their inner creativity.

12. Direct your own video

This could be something short or something longer for your class – like a project to show their individual progress. They could showcase their videos if time permits.

EG: PE – pupils showing the camera their new netball throwing technique, or how quickly they can run 100 meters.

