Introduction to Project Learning & the Personal Project

Charlotte Seijger
Project Coordinator
What is project learning?

- Project based learning
- Provides opportunities for in-depth **inquiry** in the MYP
- Allows students to authentically connect their work to the real world
- Explore topics of their own interest
- The MYP focuses on inquiry, or the desire to learn more, which begins by asking questions
- Global context gives students a starting point
Why is inquiry learning useful?

- Activates curiosity, creativity and passion
- Learner centered teaching → autonomy
- Beyond learning to memorize or remember
- Toward applying knowledge in new domains, drawing connections, evaluating or challenging ideas, and additionally creating something new.
Examples of student projects

- Planning a raffle fundraiser where proceeds were donated to a good cause
- An informative poster series about how plastic and air pollution our planet
- Organising and hosting a school talent show
- Designing and creating a dress made from plastic waste
- Organising a Valentine’s Day event at school
- Creating a model of a sustainable city
- Creating an artwork that represents the theme of diversity
- A case study of how the first moonlanding was broadcasted on television
Types of Student Inquiry

Structured Inquiry
Students follow the lead of the teacher as the entire class engages in one inquiry together.

Controlled Inquiry
Teacher chooses topics and identifies the resources students will use to answer questions.

Guided Inquiry
Teacher chooses topics/questions and students design a product or solution.

Free Inquiry
Students choose their topics without reference to any prescribed outcome.

Inspired by: Fitchman, 2011
What is the personal project?

- Building on project learning in MYP1-3
- Start preparation in MYP4, finish project in MYP5
- Process journal, a product and a reflective report.
- Create a **learning goal** and a **product goal**
- Formally assesses students **ATL skills** (communication, social, self-management, research, thinking)
- Each student is assigned a **supervisor** to help them → 3 meetings to discuss progress
**Timeline**

1. **Begin**
   - Start IP sessions during mentor lessons
   - **MARCH 2023**

2. **Parents & students Information Evening**
   - **APRIL 2023**

3. **Developing Goals**
   - Students create their learning goal, product goal and decide on their ATL skills of focus. Students are also matched with a supervisor
   - **MAY 2023**

4. **Meeting Number 1**
   - Students meet with their supervisor and get feedback on goals and ATL skills. They begin developing success criteria
   - **JUNE 2023**

5. **Get to work**
   - Students investigate, create their product and document the process in their process journal on Managebac
   - **JULY/AUGUST 2023**

6. **Meeting Number 2**
   - Second meeting with supervisor to discuss progress
   - **SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023**

7. **Start Report**
   - Students continue working on their product, assess their product using success criteria and start writing their report
   - **OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2023**

8. **Exhibition Nov 15th**
   - Students prepare for the exhibition to showcase their product and process
   - **NOVEMBER 2023**

9. **December 29th First Draft**
   - Finish first draft of report
   - **DECEMBER 2023**

10. **Meeting Number 3**
    - Third meeting with supervisor to receive feedback on report
    - **JANUARY 2024**

11. **February 6th Final Report Deadline**
    - **FEBRUARY 2024**
Timeline for New Students

1. **Start Personal Project**
   - August/September 2023
   - Students develop a learning goal and product goal, decide on ATL Skills, an action plan, and success criteria.

2. **Meeting Number 1**
   - October 2023
   - Students meet with their supervisor to discuss goals, ATL skills, success criteria, and action plan. They then start creating the product.

3. **Meeting Number 2**
   - November 2023
   - Students meet with their supervisor to show evidence of progress in creating their product.

4. **Meeting 3 & Report Draft**
   - December 2023
   - Students meet with their supervisor to receive feedback on the first draft of their report.

5. **Finish Product**
   - January 2024
   - Students show their finished product to the supervisor on December 22nd. They begin writing their report.

6. **Final Report Due on February 6th**
   - February 2024
How are students assessed?

Reports assessed in Teams of 3 teachers

Criteria: Planning, Applying skills, Reflecting

Supervisors give students a predicted grade

These grades get moderated by the IB

Final grade out of 7
Any Questions?

Thank you for listening

c.seijger@rijnlandslyceum-rlw.nl