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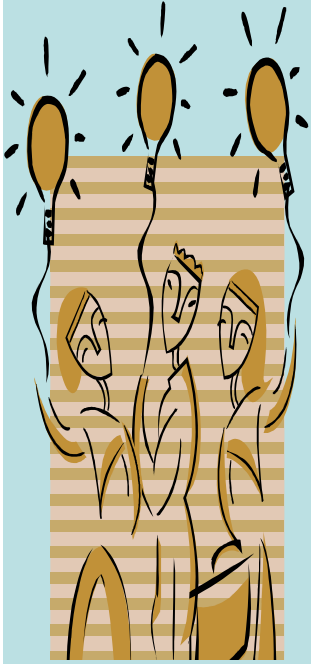
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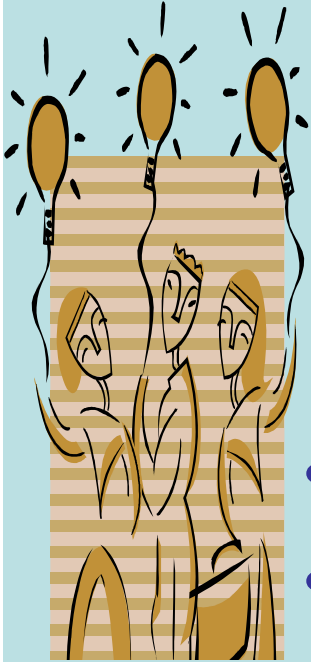
Changing ways Teachers Teach in an Unpredictable Climate

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Introduction

- Background to the TQEF Project in ‘Creativity and Innovation in Teaching in Higher Education’
- The Creativity Cafes and their benefits
- Developments out of the Creativity Cafes
- Are the risks too high for teachers?



Background to the Creativity in Teaching project

- Interviewed over 40 academic staff
- Enquiry into creative and innovative methods used in teaching
- Unaware of other creative teaching practice
- Welcomed the opportunity to network with others
- 4 Broad Categories of Creativity identified



4 Broad Categories of Creativity in Teaching

1. The Process of Creative Thinking
2. Creative Teaching Techniques
3. Creativity in Community and Employer Engagement
4. Creativity and the use of Information Technology



The Creativity Cafe

- An informal, but structured event where staff could network and share good practice
- A themed session was set out in a 'bistro' style with menus, tablecloths, candles and waiters
- 'Diners' sat with unfamiliar staff
- Followed up at least one contact

Simmering
on the
back
burner



National
Creativity
Cafe
Conference

MENU

Huddersfield
University
Queensgate
Campus
Castle Hill
Suite

8th November 2008
9.45am - 3.30pm



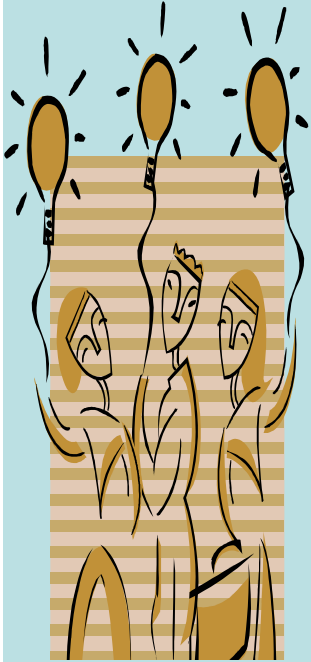






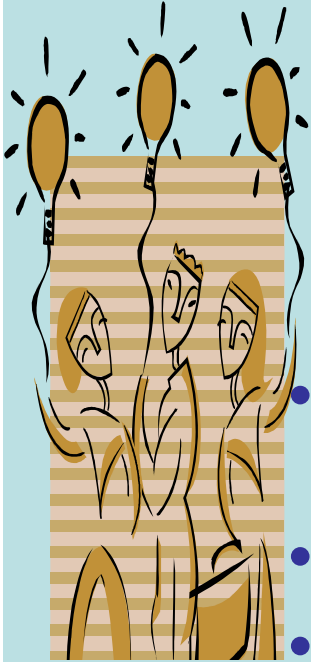






Impact of the Creativity Cafes on staff and their teaching

- All relished the time to share, network and discuss new ideas at the Cafés. Wanted these to be a regular event
- Contagious – ‘you picked up ideas whether you wanted to or not’
- More flexible in their teaching. Confidence to experiment with new ideas and different ways of working
- Less teacher-talk. More engaging activities
- More interesting to teach this way
- Mood of the sessions was lighter



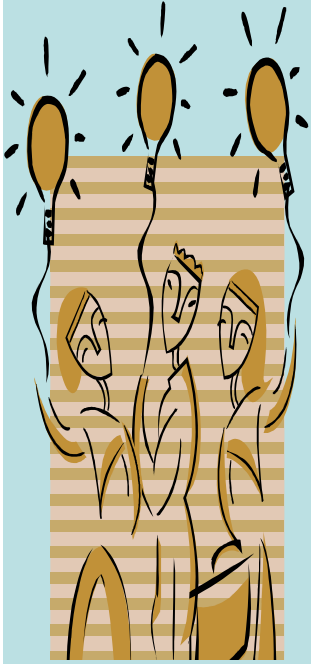
Perceived benefits in students' learning

- Lessons more enjoyable. More motivated and engaged
- Less able students flourished
- Preferred more practical activities and less teacher-talk
- Less resistant to change, and open to new ideas
- More self-sufficient and able to work independently. Developed problem-solving skills
- Quality of work was higher



Developments out of the Creativity Cafés

- Production of a Creative Teaching DVD to capture 'cameos' of staff teaching and student interviews
- OU Publication of a book 'A Toolkit for Creative Teaching in Post-Compulsory Education' containing 50 practical teaching activities



Should Creativity in Teaching be encouraged?

In a target-driven educational world there is a need for:

- Conformity
- Teaching to assessment criteria
- Accountability
- Certification
- Goals and Targets/League Tables

Are teachers willing to take risks or the stakes too high for failure? Do students really learn better this way?