

Source A is a newspaper article TEACHER IN YOUR POCKET

An English teacher from Devon is utilising the latest technological changes to adapt to the ways students learn. Liam Murphy met the man behind mrbruff.com.

1 I don't know about you but, when I was growing up, I learnt everything I needed to know for my exams while I was actually in school. Not that I necessarily learnt very well—the constant distraction of girls somewhat hampered my achievement. I won't tell you my exam results but, if I'd gone to an all-boys' school, I might have been a brain surgeon.

5 Andrew Bruff laughs in response, commenting: "You see, that's the problem. We take thousands of teenagers, put them in a building and expect them to shut up and listen. Not only to listen, but to concentrate, focus and learn. That certainly wasn't me at school, either." Andrew, founder of www.mrbruff.com, is an online pioneer in the world of education. He creates video tutorials for English language and literature, and uploads them onto youtube.com/mrbruff where, to date, he's had over 10 million views from across 214 different countries. He must be doing something right!

10 "I've nothing against schools," he adds. "I love being a teacher. But the data I get online shows that students choose to study between 10 p.m. and midnight when all the schools are closed. In the information age we live in, students are choosing the ways they want to learn when they want to learn. You can watch my video tutorials on your PC at home or on your iPhone on the way to school. You can download my podcast from iTunes and listen when you're walking home each day, or you can sit down to learn when most people (myself included) are going to bed."

20 Behind it all is the notion that students should be able to choose what they learn when they want to learn it. "Just because you have double English at 9 a.m. on a Monday morning, it doesn't mean you're in the right frame of mind to spend two hours learning about Shakespeare's sonnets," Andrew comments. "With my videos, students can study the entire GCSE course online. I'm not saying we should replace school, but we have to realise that students of today do things differently to any other previous generation. It's not one size fits all anymore."

25 Having two wildly different teenagers of my own, I'm inclined to agree with the bloke. Alex, my sulky son, doesn't want to get out of bed until mid-day. Try getting a meaningful conversation out of him in the morning and you'll think you're speaking to a Neanderthal. After lunch, however, it's a different story: he suddenly comes alive. On the flip side of that is Karen, my thirteen-year-old daughter, who is up and going before anyone else in the house, but flagging by 8 p.m.

And fair play to Mr Bruff, it works. Scan the testimonials page on Andrew's site www.mrbruff.com and you'll see dozens of students waxing lyrical about how his videos got them an A* in their exams. When I ask him why this is, he gets passionate, practically

35 jumping out of his seat. "I don't think the current education system is fair. It's not fair that you get an excellent education because you're in Mrs Smith's class in room 1, but next door in room 2 with Mr Jones, no-one's learning anything. It's not fair that the quality of your education depends on your teacher, the area you live in, or whether you have rich parents who can afford expensive revision guides and tutors. I want to change that, even just a little bit".

40 Andrew wrote and published his first revision guide in 2013, pricing it at the ridiculously low price of just 99 pence where it shot to number 1 in the Amazon best sellers chart (and has stayed in the top twenty all year long).

45 The father of two said: "I want to provide resources that everyone can afford, and I'm doing that. I now have over twenty revision guides for sale on my site, and they are helping literally thousands of students—it's great."

50 When I log on to check out Andrew's videos, I'm surprised to see one of him playing Minecraft while simultaneously narrating details about the English language exam. He beams at me when I ask him about this: "Watching Minecraft videos has become a national pastime with teenagers, so I wanted to bridge the gap between that and studying. Watch me play Minecraft and learn at the same time. Better still, send me your own gameplay footage for everyone to watch, and I'll narrate over that." This is a far-cry from my school days, but it's clearly working. Teenagers, teachers, schools and authors watch Andrew's videos in their thousands on a daily basis.

55 As I leave him, he has one more point to make: "This is the changing face of education. I'm just happy to be a part of it."

May 28th, 1820

Dear Mr Woolark,

I am writing with reference to the continued poor behaviour exhibited by your son, Adrian, here at Woodland Green School.

At Woodland Green, we pride ourselves on providing the very best education available to our students.

As you are supposedly aware, lessons begin at 7:30 a.m., with students quickly making their way to the schoolroom. It is unfortunate that Adrian seems to find it impossible to arrive at school on time although this is not why he has been reprimanded.

Each schoolroom here at Woodland Green contains as many as one hundred students, who are eager and keen to learn. Students are seated at an iron-framed desk, which is bolted to the floor, facing the front of the room. Seating is tiered towards the back of the room to ensure that all pupils are able to see clearly to the front of the class. These seating arrangements ensure all students are given an excellent view of the class teacher from whom they will be learning. We pride ourselves on our teachers here, Mr Woolark, and students who do the same are quick to learn, nay, to excel. Adrian does not seem to feel the same way. Twice, yes twice, he has been caught talking over the teacher Mr Butterly. Mr Butterly, himself now a little hard of hearing, was not aware of Adrian's idle chatter, but I myself was. I observed Adrian through the curtain at the rear of the room and withdrew him directly to my office to receive the cane. He was obstinate enough to inform me that he knew all about the topic Mr Butterly was expounding upon and therefore had no need to listen. You can quite understand, I am sure, that I therefore proceeded to administer two lashes of 'old faithful'?

We observe the highest levels of focus here at Woodland Green. Students are expected to sit in complete silence, as the teacher writes notes upon the blackboard—notes students are then required to copy. In this manner, we enrich our students with intellectual force. Most schoolroom time is allocated to the study of reading, writing and arithmetic, and there is no time for idle chatter.

Of course, we fully believe in creating a rounded child, and so once a week we have drill in the playground. Most of this time is spent jogging on the spot or lifting

dumbbells. Adrian should use these occasions as an outlet for his 'energy', and must remain silent in class.

I trust that this settles the matter.

Yours faithfully,

Edgar Thompson

Head teacher, Woodland Green School

Yours faithfully,

Andrew Woolark

Question 1

Read source A from lines 1 to 25. Choose four statements that are TRUE:

- A. Liam Murphy did not enjoy his time at school.
- B. Andrew Bruff makes online video tutorials.
- C. Liam Murphy was distracted by girls at school.
- D. Andrew Bruff was very able in school.
- E. Students don't want to learn during school hours.
- F. Many students access Andrew Bruff's videos after 10 p.m.
- G. Andrew Bruff believes schools are bad places.
- H. Liam Murphy makes a joke to excuse his poor exam results.

Question 2

You need to refer to source A and source B:

Write a summary of the differences between Andrew Bruff and Edgar Thompson.

[8 marks]

Question 3

How does Edgar Thompson use language to try to influence Mr Woolark?

[12 marks]

Question 4

Refer to source A and source B. Compare how the writers convey their different attitudes to education.

In your answer, you should:

- Compare the different attitudes
- Compare the methods used to show these attitudes
- Support your ideas with quotations from the text.

[16 marks]

Question 5

'School uniform is the number one most important factor in ensuring that students behave well and achieve academic success at school'.

Write a letter to your head teacher, arguing for or against the abolition of school uniform.

(24 marks for content and organisation
16 marks for technical accuracy)
[40 marks]