Tips on engaging students with their feedback

How students respond to feedback will be influenced by their own attitude to learning and by their prior experience of the assessment and feedback 'system.' Failure to engage with feedback may be due to either the 'system' or their lack of understanding of their learning goals and the criteria against which their academic performance is measured.

Some tips on engaging students with feedback are:-

- Discuss with students’ their experiences before university and what might be expected from them during higher education.

- Reduce the work load of students and yourself by reducing the amount of summative assessment.

- Set clear expectations.

- Provide students with details of the Learnhigher website (http://www.learnhigher.ac.uk/), which will give them hints and tips on completing their assignments.

- Try to understand what motivates the students you are teaching – and adjust your feedback provision accordingly.

- Withhold marks or grades when returning students work. Ask them to read the feedback provided and then guess at the grade awarded. If they get close (within 5%) congratulate them. If they don’t explain why they received the grade they did.

- Provide feedback in different formats –students will respond differently to different formats of feedback.

- Use self and peer assessment for some assignments.