

## **Dr. Yvonne Masters: Getting to know your students**

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Hi, I am Yvonne and I work in Professional Classroom Practice.

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This project, that this video is a part of, is about helping you if ever you need to teach into a virtual school.

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An interesting challenge for doing that is of course getting to know your students.

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On the website, you'll find lots of resources but one of the big keys is how do you get to know students when you are not in the room with them.

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Funnily enough, not all the students may be in the same room either.

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And it becomes very difficult to set up a community.

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Sense of community is of course important to trust in relationship.

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So, what might you do? You could ask questions, but if the students don't know each other, then that could be an issue.

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I want to mention just two particular resources which are online and more importantly free that you could use to get to know your students and have them introduce themselves to each other.

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One of these is a program called ZeeMaps Z-E-E-Maps and you can find it through Google of course.

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ZeeMaps allows you to set up a map of anywhere in the world, but for you it will probably be Australia or even New South Wales or any other state you are in.

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But you can have that map and anybody with the link can put in a pinpoint as to where they are at a photo of themselves and write a little bit about themselves and their interests.

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It's one way you can get to know the students, they can get to know each other and it's very non-threatening.

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You're not asking questions but do you have any problems, you can't ask those questions until you know them better.

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The other one that you could use is something called Padlet.

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Again, it's on the web and free and this is like little sticky notes all joined to the same board.

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It can be used again to get to know your students.

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You could also ask those special questions. What are your key interests, which subjects do you like, which subjects would you like most help with.

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It's ways in which you can find out about the students without invasive questions over the camera that will be there into the virtual school.

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Virtual schools have their challenges, but they are an exciting opportunity for students who want to learn in different ways, all who are isolated or at risk or vulnerable in other ways.

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Hopefully, you get the opportunity to do it and good luck with it all.

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Thanks.