

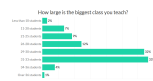
What Teachers Tapped This Week #62 – 3rd December 2018

Hang on to your hats folks; it's the month you predicted will be the toughest for behaviour (more on that below). December is also the time of Christmas Carols, advent calendars, and the staff Xmas Party – so at least there's that to look forward to as well!

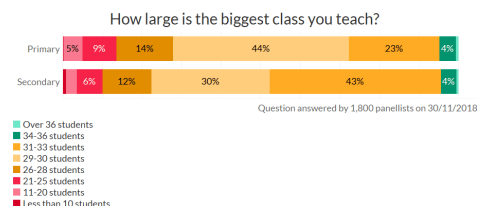
<https://giphy.com/gifs/minions-illumination-entertainment-9w475hDWEPLu> In the meantime, here's what teachers said this week about the job. Does it chime with your views?

1. [Class Size: 30+ Kids Is Not Unusual](#)

The standard maximum classroom size is thought of as 30 children. Over the last few years, with more children coming into schools than ever before, the maximum was squeezed. Now,

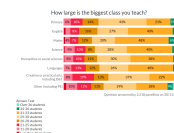


Even in primary schools, 25% of classes have more than 30 children in them. At secondary, around half of teachers take at least one class with more than 30 children. Given classrooms



Maths teachers are particularly afflicted with large class sizes, possibly as a consequence of more ability-setting within the subject which means top classes are sometimes over-stuffed

almost 4 in 10 teachers (38%) are teaching classes with more than 30 pupils. In fact were likely built to accommodate 30 pupils, this is a squeeze!



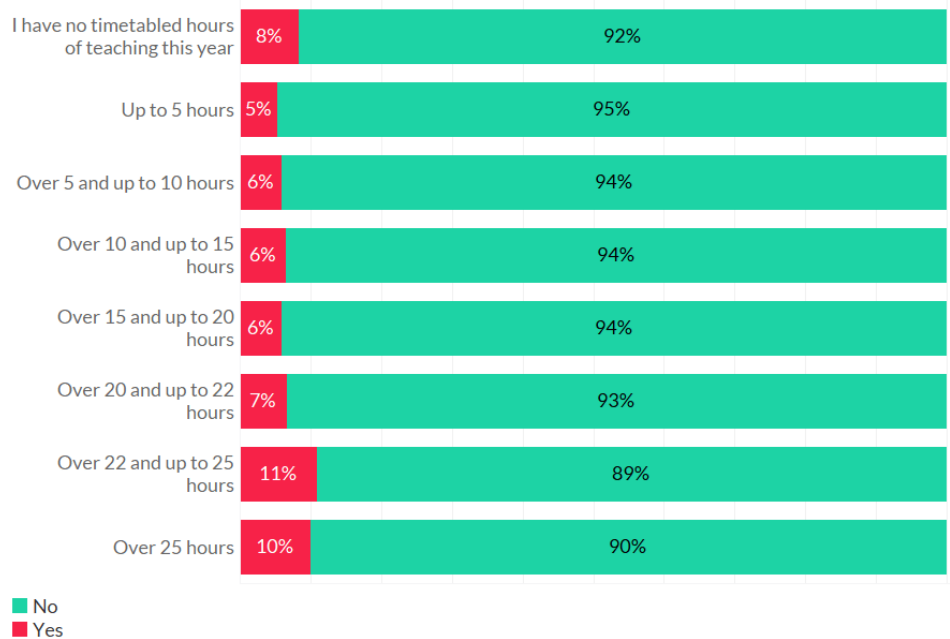
Creative/arts teachers tend to have the smallest classes, although most still have at least one class in the 29+ range.

2. A Full Timetable Means More Sickness

A teacher on Twitter asked us to find out if teachers with jam-packed timetables are more likely to take time off sick. If you have more teaching hours, the theory goes that you are more likely to stay home when feeling under par because it's harder to battle through a full day.

while lower-attaining classes are minimal to enable more one-to-one intervention.

Timetabled hours versus any days off sick last week



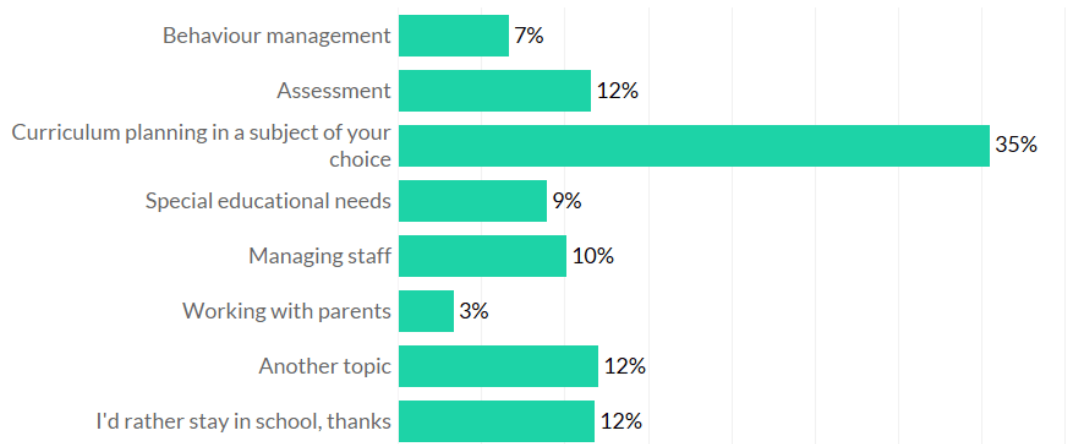
There is a sharp distinction in absence rates between teachers who have more than 22 hours of timetabled teaching versus those under that amount. Teachers in England have a reasonably high contact load versus teachers in other countries. Could it be that 22 hours is a limit beyond which teachers are stretched too far?

3. Does Ofsted's Curriculum Focus Mean Teachers Want CPD?

We've asked this question about choice of CPD course three times now and so naturally wondered if the increasing noise about curriculum from Ofsted is increasing its popularity. We took a look, and the answer is no! The popularity of curriculum courses had hovered at around one-third of teachers since we first asked in October 2017 (when our panel was admittedly

Their hunch was correct!

You are able to go to a two-day professional development course this year on one of the following topics. Which will you choose?

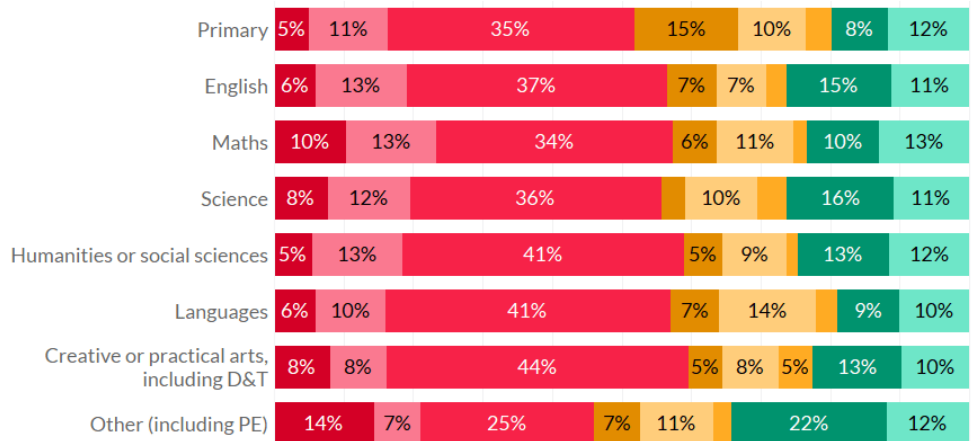


Question answered by 2,376 panellists on 25/11/2018

So it's not Ofsted driving the popularity of curriculum courses, it's something that teachers have long felt they need. Primary and core subject teachers are less likely to select curriculum INSET than a secondary teacher in non-core subjects. However, it was the most popular for

much smaller).

You are able to go to a two-day professional development course this year on one of the following topics. Which will you choose?



Question answered by 2,105 panellists on 25/11/2018

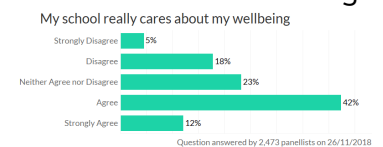
Answer Text

- I'd rather stay in school, thanks
- Another topic
- Working with parents
- Managing staff
- Special educational needs
- Curriculum planning in a subject of your choice
- Assessment
- Behaviour management

If you are planning an INSET for January, it is worth bearing this in mind.

4. [A Cheap Way To Improve Teacher Wellbeing](#)

54% of teachers think their school really cares about their wellbeing. Which leaves an alarming



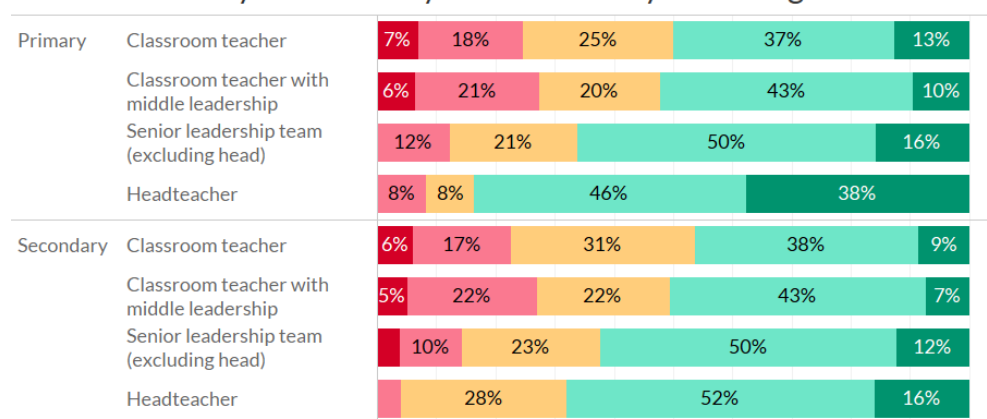
Question answered by 2,473 panellists on 26/11/2018

Note how this changes with role. Senior leaders feel schools are much more caring than their

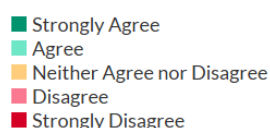
46% who feel their school is indifferent or directly does not care.

absolutely everyone.

My school really cares about my wellbeing



Question answered by 1,388 panellists on 26/11/2018



But all is not lost! We asked teachers what they wished their line manager or head would do more often to make them happier. Good News: the answer is cheap. For teachers who disagree their school cares about their wellbeing, 57% would just like some genuine

classroom teachers do.

Which of these do you wish your line manager or headteacher did more often (if it were possible)? (Tick all that apply)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Dropped into your class unannounced and gave you immediate, constructive feedback	25%	21%	20%	19%	15%
Gave genuine recognition to you in a public forum	22%	22%	29%	31%	34%
Gave genuine recognition to you privately	34%	45%	54%	61%	57%
Gave you time to read educational material for professional development	43%	41%	42%	44%	38%
Left you alone!	6%	8%	18%	23%	36%
None of the above	26%	17%	13%	8%	5%

That said, 36% of teachers who disagreed their school cared about their wellbeing also just wanted to be left alone. Teacher autonomy is important to wellbeing.

5. Is Behaviour Getting Any Better?

Running centralised detentions in secondary schools is generally seen as a good way to lower classroom teacher workload. So, we were amazed to see that half of our secondary teachers



We are still watching disruption in class on a Friday afternoon. As with previous points in the

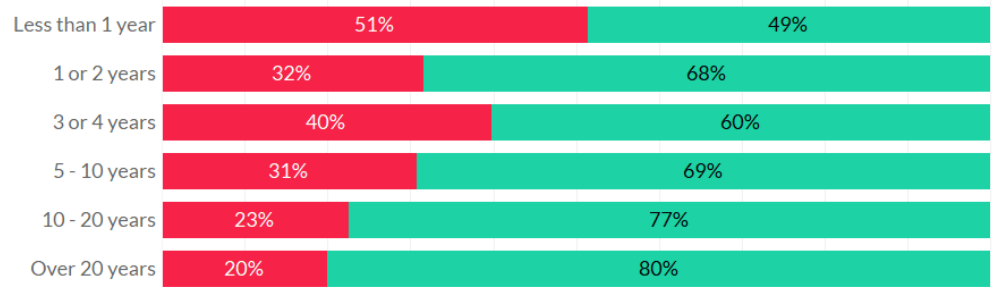
In the last lesson you taught, was there any time when you felt teaching and learning largely stopped because of poor behaviour?



And disruption rates are higher at this point in the term than back in September. Newer teachers are faring particularly badly (around 51% experienced disruption, versus around 40%

recognition given to them privately. Cost = £0.
 year, we find around a third of classes (30%) were disrupted.
 report they must oversee at least some of their own detentions they set.

In the last lesson you taught, was there any time when you felt teaching and learning largely stopped because of poor behaviour?



Question answered by 2,041 panellists on 30/11/2018

■ No
■ Yes

But you did predict back in September that behaviour would get worse over time with

In which month do you believe pupil's behaviour will be most challenging over the next term?



Answer Text
■ December
■ November
■ October
■ September

In the words of Simon Cowell... <https://giphy.com/gifs/black-and-white-stay-strong-TGIMjxsRyDxfi> *

6. Finally, as ever, we learned that you really love our daily tips, so here are the links for last week:

[Lightbulb moments for threshold teachers](#) [How can teaching not be knowledge-rich](#)
[Youngest children are more often diagnosed with ADHD](#) [Optimum multiple choice test](#)
[Learning gains pyramid](#) [Is the Marshmallow Test real?](#)
 at the start of term).

Right folks – over and out for another week...

In the meantime, keep sharing what we are doing. Here's a [powerpoint slide \(with script\)](#), a [PDF](#), and a [black-and-white one-pager](#) to help. Remember, we need more of you before we can do the really exciting and detailed analysis! Enjoyed this post and want to join our Teacher Tapp panel? Sign up via the [iPhone App Store](#) or the [Android App Store](#). You can also check out more at www.teachertapp.com