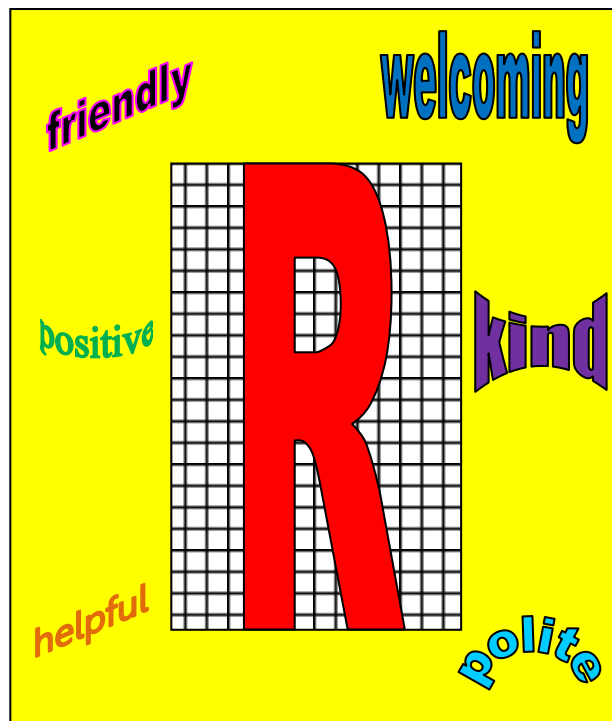


INITIAL ART

I use this activity at the beginning of the year with my year 6/7 students. It works as a 'getting to know you' activity, focuses on their positive characteristics/qualities and also helps me observe their ability to read, comprehend and follow instructions. I get to see how they problem solve, what they do when they become confused and to recognize any particular art skills. It is often also interesting to watch their measuring skills.

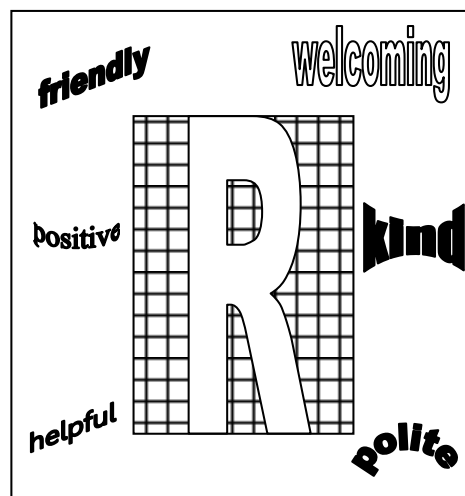
We use it as a talking point afterwards, to discuss these observations, both in one-on-one situations and as a whole class. A room decorated with these effective initials creates a sense that everyone belongs and has positive traits to contribute to our class.

Equipment: Lead pencil, eraser, ruler, colored textas/pencils
White A4 paper
Colored A4 or brex paper
Character strengths / traits sheet (optional)



INITIAL ART

1. With a partner, fold a piece of A4 paper in half and cut along the fold.
2. Share half each.
3. With the paper in a portrait position, rule a rectangle that is 10 cm wide and 15 cm high, in the top left corner of your page.
4. Mark each cm interval around the outside of the rectangle, with a small dot.
5. Connect the dots with light pencil lines, to form a grid of 1cm x 1cm squares.
6. Sketch the outline of a block letter of your initial of your first name, (eg. Anne sketches an 'A'), making sure that it touches the top and bottom of the rectangle.
7. Color the grid/checked squares, with 2 different colors, in an alternating pattern. You can use pencils or textas. (It might be useful to count out the pattern and put a colored dot in each square of the grid first). Do not color inside the block letter.
8. Erase the lead pencil grid/checked squares inside the block letter.
9. Color the inside of the block letter with a 3rd color.
10. Carefully cut out the rectangle and paste in the centre of an A4 piece of paper or brex square.
11. Decorate around the initial art with words that describe your positive character traits and skills



RELIABLE

A GOOD SPORT

Friendly

adventurous

TRUSTWORTHY

ALWAYS DO MY BEST

good sense of humour

ENCOURAGING

ARTISTIC

Welcoming

HELPFUL

Hardworker

GENEROUS

Caring

PATIENT

POSITIVE