



UNIVERSITY OF
PORTSMOUTH



Practical Pedagogy – 13 September 2021

DEVELOPING AN EXAMPLE INSTITUTIONAL PERSONAL TUTORING AND DEVELOPMENT CURRICULUM TO SUPPORT STUDENT SUCCESS

Dr Harriet Dunbar-Morris PFHEA, NTF and Gavin Knight SFHEA

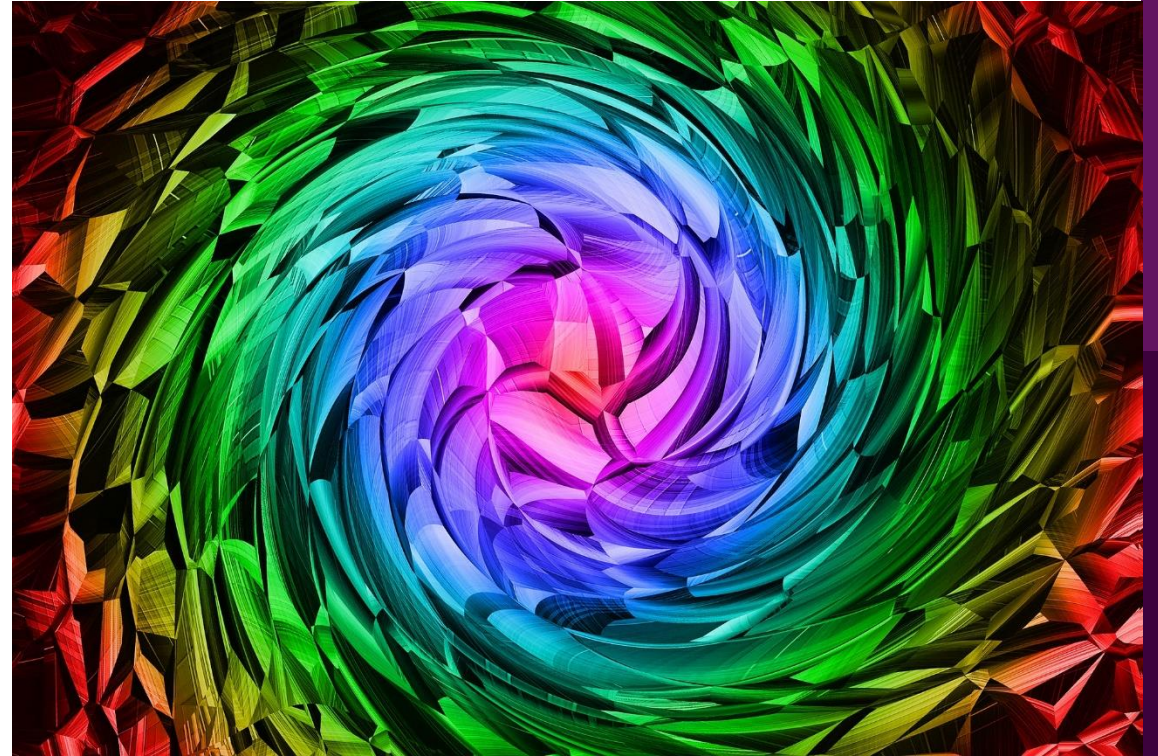
🐦 @HE_Harriet harriet.dunbar-morris@port.ac.uk 🐦 @GavinWAKnight gavin.knight@port.ac.uk

Personal Tutoring and Development Framework

Personal tutoring forms a central activity in our students' academic, personal and professional development; improves engagement; increases retention; and encourages students to become partners in their learning, progression and achievement



‘to re-frame personal tutoring as teaching, rather than looking at it as a separate support system provided by the university [...] we can apply a pedagogic lens to personal tutoring, viewing it as an embedded academic practice [...] important to merge both the pastoral and academic approach for all personal tutors so that, as universities, we reconceptualise personal tutoring as an academic approach to give all students well-rounded support.’ (AlHakim, 2018)



Personal Tutoring Curriculum

- ▶ Help students develop the characteristics outlined in the Hallmarks of a Portsmouth Graduate*
- ▶ Encourage students' professional development by engagement with course-related activities

Our approach provides students with the tools to help themselves, which is at the centre of our approach at Portsmouth:

'My personal tutor has been fantastic and really helped me grow not only academically but personally as well.' (Student, NSS 2020)



Developing your tutees

One of the most important elements of the personal tutoring role is to monitor students' transition and engagement with their academic studies. You can provide an objective overview of their progress and advise them on ways to improve their academic performance. As students progress you can help them choose their options, taking into account their current performance and their future career ambitions. Your key role is thus to support your tutees' academic integration, progression and achievement.



Example Curriculum for Personal Tutors

Includes example curriculum for both Personal Tutors on Undergraduate (UG, levels 3-7) and Postgraduate Taught (PGT, level 7)



Tutor Toolkit

Includes a wide range of materials that can be used in a 50-minute tutorial. Each topic has a lesson plan including a session introduction, downloadable resources and a concluding activity. The materials have been designed to be used with specific year groups (Levels 4-7) and can be used for both group and individual tutorials.



Enterprise Toolkit (UoP Moodle site)

Includes resources to help embed enterprise in the curriculum along with case studies and testimonials from academic staff, students and employers.

Themes:

- ▶ Getting to know you
- ▶ Getting Connected
- ▶ Preparing for Success
- ▶ Making the most of University
- ▶ Refreshing, Reflecting, Developing
- ▶ Enhancing your Future
- ▶ Becoming a Professional
- ▶ Moving On

drawn from Lochtie et al (2018, pp 124-127)

<https://personaltutoring.port.ac.uk/developing-your-tutees>

Enhancing your future

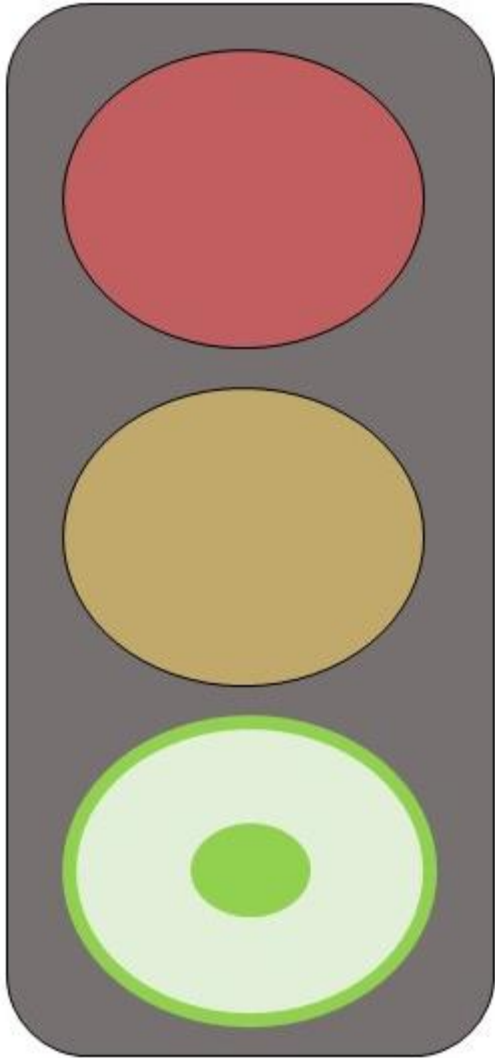
Provide students with developing opportunities to practice placement, volunteering and job-finding skills, and get feedback on their developing interview approach

- ▶ Personal Development Planning
- ▶ Hallmarks
- ▶ Shortlist me
- ▶ Brand me

‘In my second presentation I look increasingly calm, maintaining eye contact ... in the final presentation I could talk confidently about my work experience and skills ... doing the ‘brand me’ videos this year has given me the confidence to sell myself by talking about my skills and how they are relevant to an employer.’ (Student cited in Tymon et al, 2020, pp 1828)



Adopting the new PT&D framework: Celebration



A range of social and academic objectives in varying forms (1-1, groups). There seems to be more of a focus on creating an affinity with the course and creating a culture

Understanding the complexities of tutoring today

We really like the idea of our level 4s, 5s, and 6s meeting each other

It introduces consistency, recognises the importance of the role of personal tutor and sets some good minimum expectations.

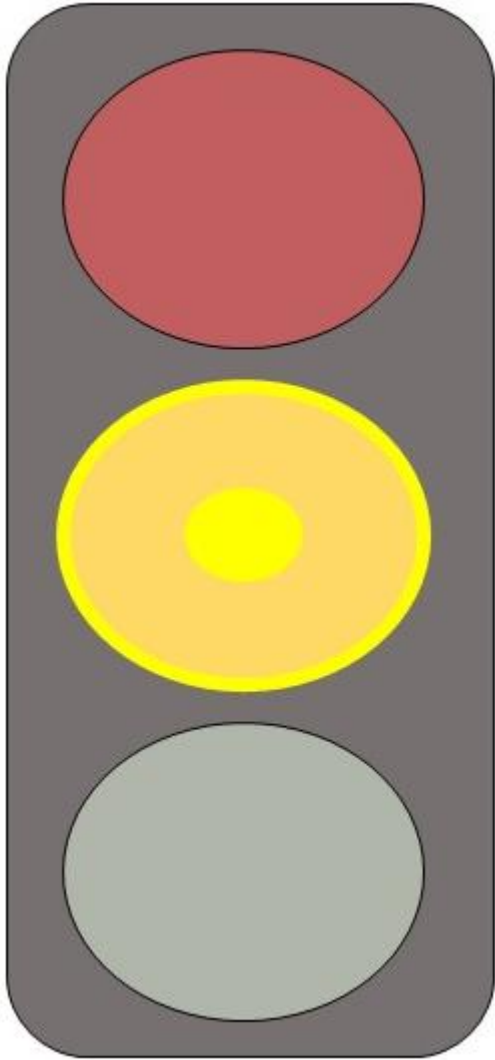
Academic Support & First point of contact for Pastoral care

Welcome the statement that personal tutoring is of equal status to other academic activities

flexibility to suit vocational/non-vocational courses

Excellent that all students will have access to personal tutor for the duration of their course

Adopting the new PT&D framework: Concerns



...we have personal tutors who dedicate themselves to a particular year so students have different personal tutors each year. We wouldn't want to lose this.

some of this really won't be feasible in terms of workload where staff have 20+ personal tutees. Some staff have around 50 personal tutees

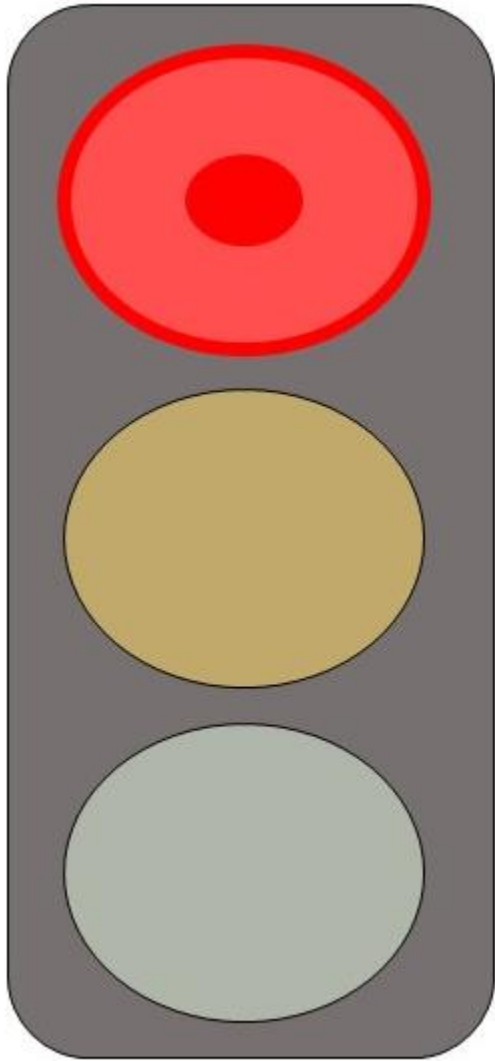
Need to make sure personal tutor sessions fit in with general undergraduate induction course timetables and don't duplicate content

I am not sure that the suggestion of co-timetabling events for 1/2/3 years would be practicable in our Faculty - but agree that more connections between the years could be beneficial.

Do we provide training ... for Personal Tutors, particularly on boundaries ... and whether for new staff or as a refresher for less-new staff, training to ensure that they know the full range of services in order to properly sign-post?

...an increase in hours for PTs [required] to reflect the complexities [of the programme]

Adopting the new PT&D framework: Obstacles



- Breaking the mould - understanding what 21st century tutoring looks like – Hearts and minds
- Staffing and workload allocation creates new challenges to be addressed
- Timetabling deadline for next academic year created an immediate barrier
- March 2020 lockdown began with growing uncertainty for new academic year
- Focus on developing blended and connected approach – capacity for more change and need for flexibility

Our recipe for success

- ▶ Co-creating with students and consulting with main stakeholders
- ▶ Comprehensive and evolving training package to support new and existing tutors
- ▶ Senior Tutors Network to drive the implementation of tutorial principles at the School level





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Thank you

harriet.dunbar-morris@port.ac.uk

gavin.knight@port.ac.uk

🐦 @HE_Harriet 🐦 @GavinWAKnight

