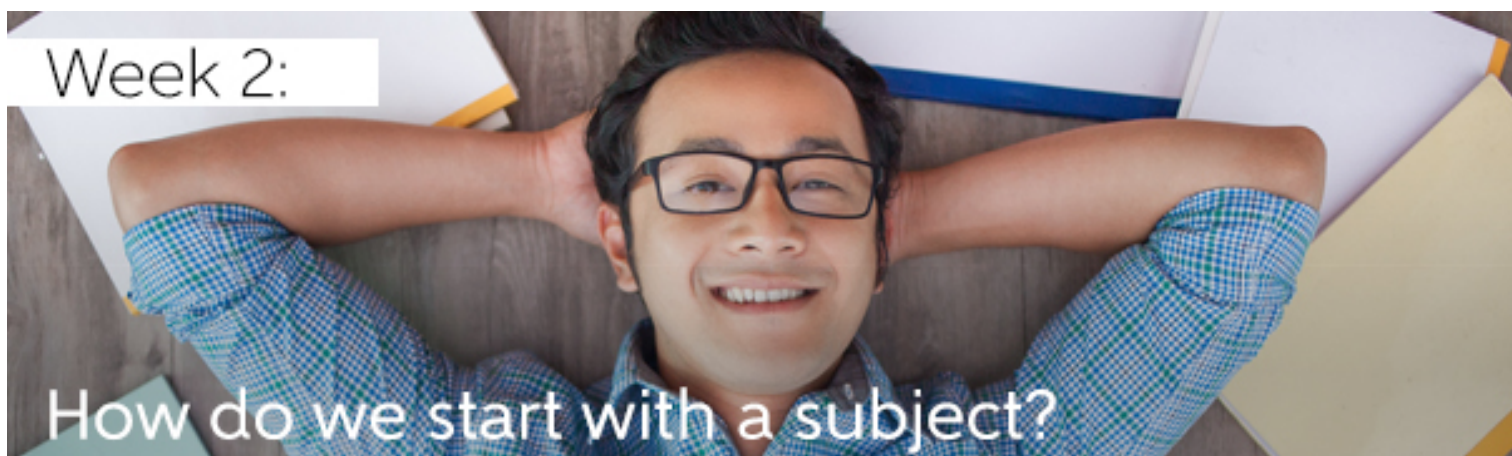




Dear Friend,

We know that teachers are committed and caring. Plus, they can be incredibly busy. For us as Christians, we also know that teachers can struggle with how to express the deeper purposes of what our teaching is about, as we work to be faithful to what God has called us to do.

Our hope at The Excellence Centre is that these short pieces will encourage you, stimulate you, and give you some practical ideas. Please be free to send in your ideas of what you would like to see in future series. If you do not wish to keep receiving these *Teachers Talking* pieces, go to the “Unsubscribe” link below.



Did you have a subject at school about which you simply did not like learning? Can you remember why? And did this dislike carry over into other years?

As we know, our students come to us with lots of previous experiences and/or impressions of what a subject is about. Yet as teachers, we can (hopefully) see the joy in each subject we teach. More than that, as Christian teachers, we can celebrate in the glory and wonder of each subject as being God's gift to us.

How then do we initially present our subjects to our students? One very helpful way can be to explore exactly what the subject *is*! It is surprising how many students cannot explain what a subject is about, even after studying it for many years – for example, try asking an advanced Mathematics class to give a definition of their subject, as see how they go.

So here are some things that might help you introduce your subject(s) in a way that invites some awe and wonder back to the students in your class(es):

- Think of how you can ask the students – in an engaging way – to consider what it is they are about to study together
- You might also ask them to identify what they *feel* about the subject (if

they have had prior experience with it)

- Then as a class, work to construct a definition that you can keep referring to as you teach (this will help you link the particulars of any topic to the big picture of what the subject is about). This could include remembering that any subject we teach:
  - Is a gift from God;
  - Gives us opportunity to do good in our world (which is God's gift of stewardship to us); and
  - Only humans can study this way – because we are made in the Image of God (i.e. each discipline and subject is a distinctly human enterprise).

Until next time.

*The Team*  
The Excellence Centre

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That's all for now, read more at [www.theexcellencecentre.org](http://www.theexcellencecentre.org)

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