

## Developing a curriculum dictionary

When members of the BLT community take part in discussions about pedagogy and curriculum we endeavour to speak the same educational language. To support colleagues in doing this we have agreed upon the following definitions for words which can have multiple interpretations.

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**Learning** Learning is defined as an alteration in long-term memory. If nothing has been altered in long-term memory then nothing has been learned.

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**Skill** Skill is a performance built on what a person knows. That performance might be physical or cognitive, but skills matter and they cannot be separated from knowledge. They are, if you like, the 'know-how' in applying the 'known'.

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**Threshold knowledge** Knowledge that unlocks student understanding of bigger ideas or concepts and therefore promotes progress in their learning.

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**Mastery** When knowledge and skill have been learned (transferred to long-term memory) and can be used with fluency and confidence.

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**Inter-leaving** A process where students mix, or interleave, multiple subjects or topics while they study in order to improve their learning.

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**Spacing** The phenomenon whereby learning is greater when studying is spread out over time, as opposed to studying the same amount of content in a single session.

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