**PRINCIPLE 5**

**Pupils develop their own preferred learning styles, and usually learn most effectively when they can use those.**

In addition to the previous principles, pupils develop preferred ways of learning, and that alters the course of their progress. It makes it hard to teach a class and have them all working in their ‘Zone of Proximal Development’ – a problem familiar to all classroom teachers. (See the work of Vygotsky – summary website referenced below.)   
  
The ‘lockdown’ period will have allowed some pupils to find out more about their preferred styles and their motivation to learn in different curriculum areas and in different ways. This is a huge opportunity to respect and build on that – whilst still supporting them to achieve in core curriculum areas.   
  
Some pupils will have done very little formal learning in the ‘lockdown’ – but we should assume they have done some learning, and try to build positively on this. They may, for example, have learned practical life skills, have learned to choose an activity or to self-occupy.

**References**

Vygotsky (undated) <http://www.innovativelearning.com/educational_psychology/development/zone-of-proximal-development.html>