

Introduction

As an educator who understands the challenges of teaching, I created a project designed to assist teachers in managing their school life more effectively. This website provides teachers with an online timetable, allowing them to plan their lessons and keep track of important dates throughout the year. Additionally, the website offers prewritten lesson plans that show progression and enable teachers to assess their pupils' progress, which is linked to the Welsh national curriculum.

My passion for making teachers' lives easier is the driving force behind this project. After spending many years in the teaching profession, I have seen firsthand how much time is spent on paperwork, which can detract from the time spent teaching pupils. With this website, my hope is to provide teachers with the support they need to streamline their administrative tasks and focus on their students.

Currently, the website is in its initial stages of development. The sales page, which will be presented to schools, showcases the website's capabilities, while the main profile page demonstrates what teachers will see once they have logged in.

What I Enjoyed:

I really enjoyed the process of designing the 'post-it' notes on this website. It was exciting to explore different websites that helped me navigate the shadow and colouring effects. Working with Bootstrap and Flex to organize my page was also a fun challenge. With the help of Bootstrap, I was able to present my page exactly as I wanted, without elements jumping around too much. Another aspect I enjoyed was organizing my code. I have a preference for neatness, so clearly presenting my code made it easier for me to spot missing closing tags and semicolons.

Challenges/ Difficulties:

I encountered a challenge while using this website, specifically when it came to adding JavaScript functionality. My goal was to create a feature where the 'post-it' notes would automatically add a new row below if the user needed more writing space. After some research, I managed to modify the code to clone the row successfully. Initially, it appeared to work flawlessly. However, I noticed an issue where the cloned row also duplicated any text entered in the original row. This posed a significant problem, and despite my efforts, I couldn't find a straightforward solution. To overcome this hurdle, I sought the help of my husband, who provided a helpful suggestion. He proposed hiding the first element to prevent users from writing in it, thus avoiding the problem of text duplication during cloning.

What I Would Include for Next Time:

Given the opportunity, I would develop a comprehensive timetable specifically designed for teachers to facilitate their lesson-planning process. The primary objective of this timetable would be to establish clear links between the lessons and the skills outlined in the curriculum. By incorporating these connections, teachers would have a user-friendly tool for seamless lesson planning and effective assessment. The timetable would provide a structured framework that supports teachers in aligning their instructional objectives with the specific skills outlined in the curriculum, ultimately enhancing the overall teaching and learning experience.

Features I Would Add or Remove:

Based on my initial wireframe, I identified certain features that I would like to add or remove during the building process. Initially, I did not include a coloured header, but I realized that incorporating some colour would help differentiate it from the main body, enhancing visual clarity. Additionally, as I progressed with the project, I realised the impracticality of using Post-it notes for linking dates to the timetable. Consequently, I would revise the design by placing the timetable on the opening page instead, reserving the post-it note concept for a separate notes page.

Furthermore, I would introduce a dedicated page for a to-do list. This feature could be displayed as a convenient pop-up on the side of the screen, showcasing high-priority items. This way, users can easily manage their tasks within the application, ensuring efficient organization and productivity.

Conclusion:

Building this website has been a highly enjoyable experience for me. Once I delved into the process, I found it challenging to step away from it, driven by the excitement of exploring and incorporating new features that deviated from my initial design. The more I worked on it, the more ideas emerged, fueling my desire to expand and enhance the website beyond its original scope. In fact, I am considering the possibility of further developing it into a fully functional tool tailored specifically for teachers. This project has ignited my passion, and I envision its potential to evolve into a valuable resource for educators.