Teaching & Learning Workshop at Aston University
About the Workshop…

➢ To understand our teaching & learning environments and implement change

• **Key objectives**
• Define the teaching styles and what pedagogical drivers there are that should influence space design
• Consider how existing teaching space could be used more effectively
• Define what the University should be doing to provide new student –led learning spaces
“Spaces and AV are driving learning and teaching, rather than learning and teaching driving the design of spaces and AV”

Lack of understanding teaching and learning

Habit of retro fitting traditional pedagogy in new spaces

**Fundamental questions –**
*Is what goes on in a teaching room the right activity in the right style? How are we supporting the optimisation of what should go on in a teaching room rather than lecturers’ self-perceptions of “I’m unable to do my thing”. Was the space suitable for what I tried to do? But was what I tried to do right for this space?*
Outcome of the Workshop

• Lecturers prefer to teach in small cohorts
• Students prefer to be taught in small cohorts
• But our timetable is challenging due to limited teaching staff and limited hours (we looking to increase teaching hours…)

• Flat space is preferred (collaborative)

• If tiered – avoid straight rows, curved or Harvard style is preferred

• ‘Flipped classroom’ style is becoming more encouraged
• Didactic approach is becoming less favourable (However, Maths lectures still prefer this)
The detail – what academics and students like to see...

Bright, vibrant colour, easy technology, comfortable environment, acoustically sound, everything on wheels! (chairs, desks etc), whiteboards – teacher board and around the room for students, space to move around, lecture capture, simple, fast wifi, robust furniture.