



RESERVE BANK OF AUSTRALIA

New Teacher Focus

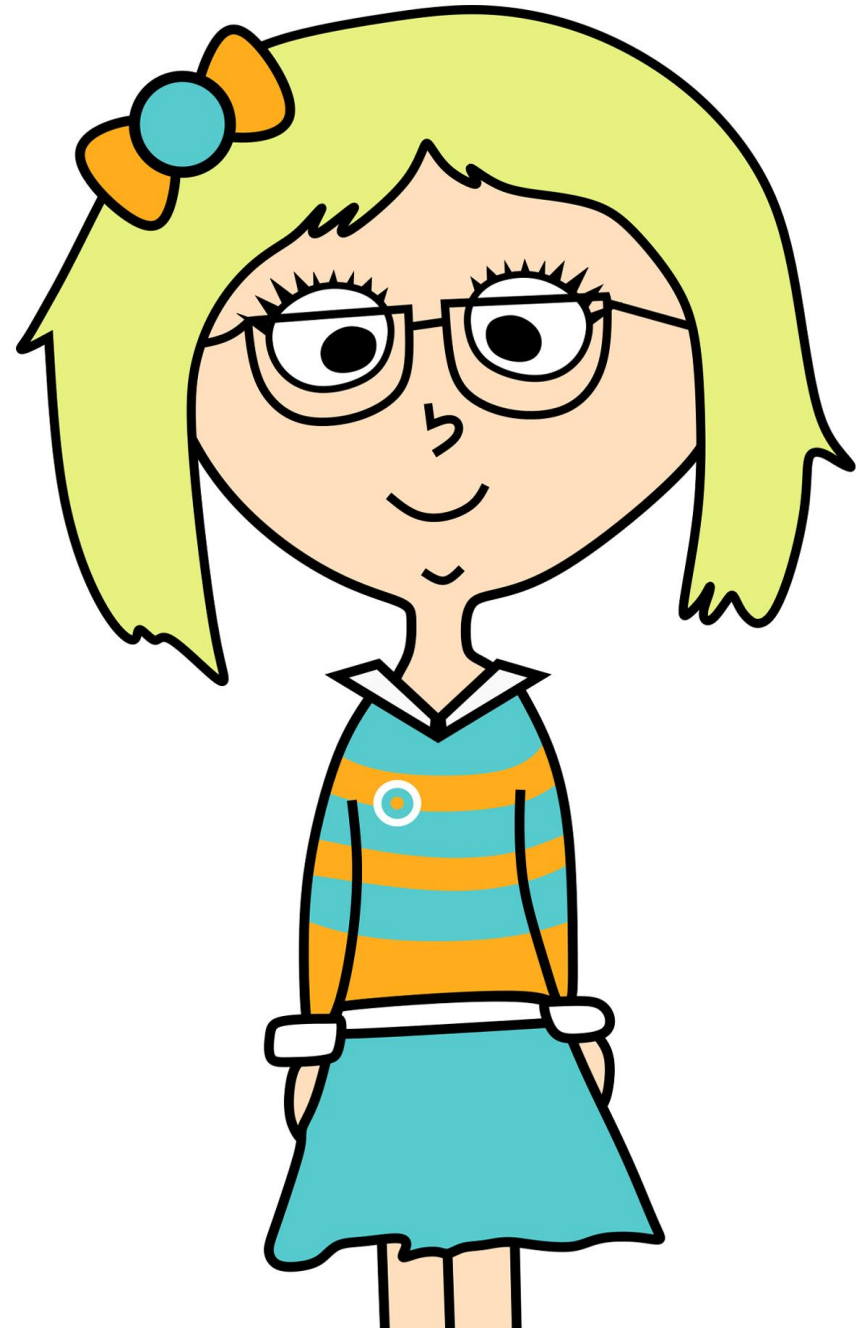
Branching Out – Essentials for Teaching Senior Economics

Rhian Bilclough, RBA Educators Advisory Panel

Geoffrey O'Neill, RBA Educators Advisory Panel

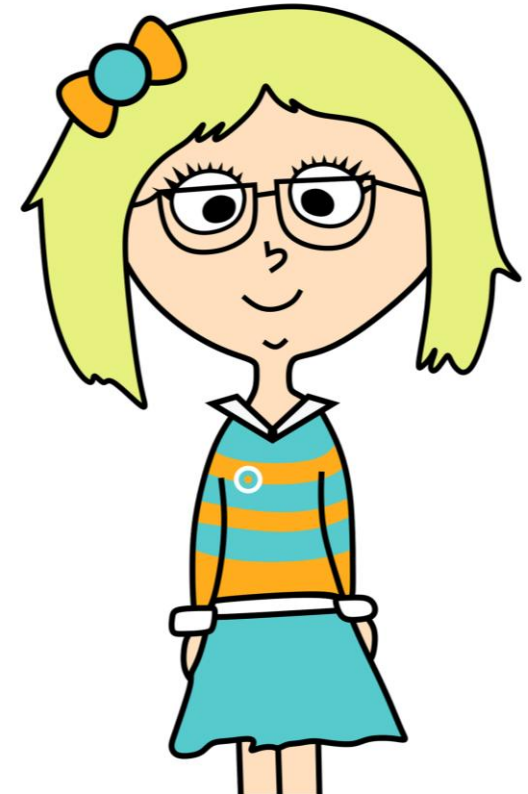
Peter Rickards, Manager Public Education, RBA

Rhian Bilclough
(Economics Nerd)
Shenton College WA



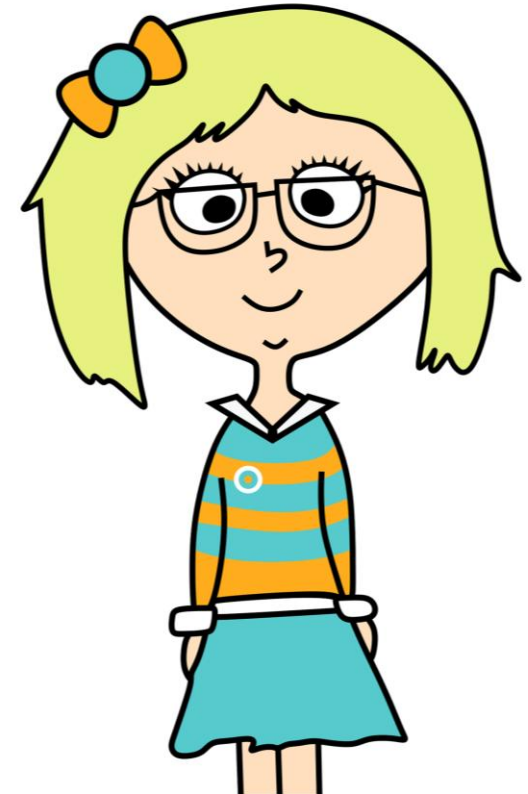
A circuitous route into Economics teaching!

- I studied A level Economics (Yr12 and Yr13) and was taught by a Greek who I couldn't understand, but I was fascinated by the subject
- A family friend, Evans-School-of-Economics tutored me to an A grade
- Studied Economics at the University of York and became interested in all things Economics
- The Careers Counsellors told me to go into banking ☹️ as apparently that's what Economics graduates did...I hated it!
- Moved into marketing in various roles...



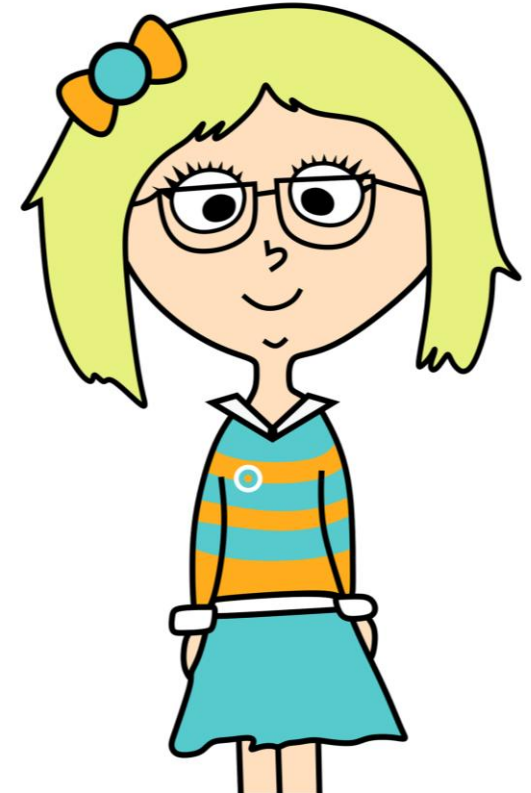
A circuitous route into Economics teaching!

- I remained super interested in all things Economics
- I am the daughter of a Head Teacher and Teacher in public schools, and it had been suggested I should be a teacher by various people....
- My Mum implemented a marketing strategy to get me to retrain over decades and refused to give up!
- I finally gave in 2012, and it was the best decision I ever made
- I taught my first Yr12 Economics class in 2014



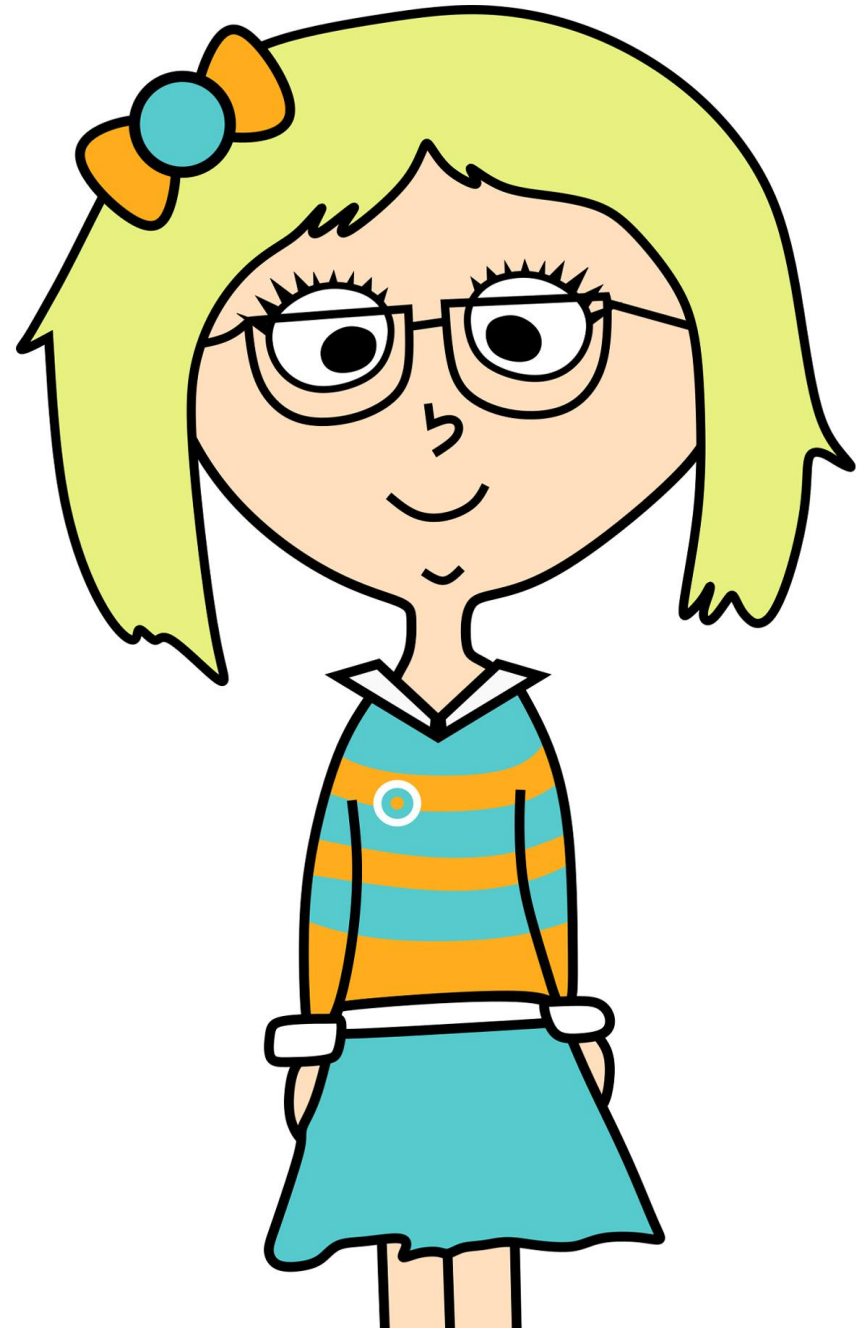
My first few classes....

- were nerve wracking even though I'd done a lot of preparation
- I hadn't taught Yr11 Economics and went straight into Yr12 teaching to cover LSL
- My Mentor Teacher supported me with resources and moderated my marking
- I had an amazing year, loved it and learned so much
- I realised knowledge of Economics wasn't the only component for success, but it was pretty important....



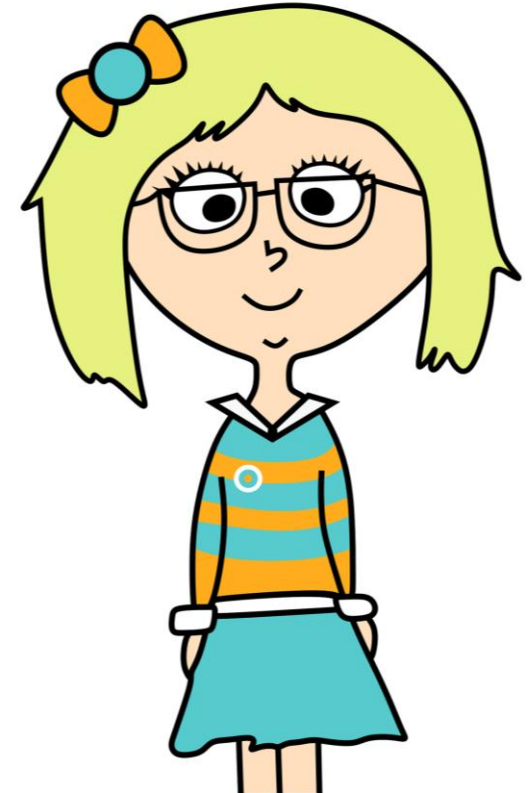
Learning to teach Economics.....

- Knowledge is king! You need to make sure you fully understand the concepts across the curriculum
- Read, read, read.....here's a reading list for you!
- Utilise the resources around you: people and products



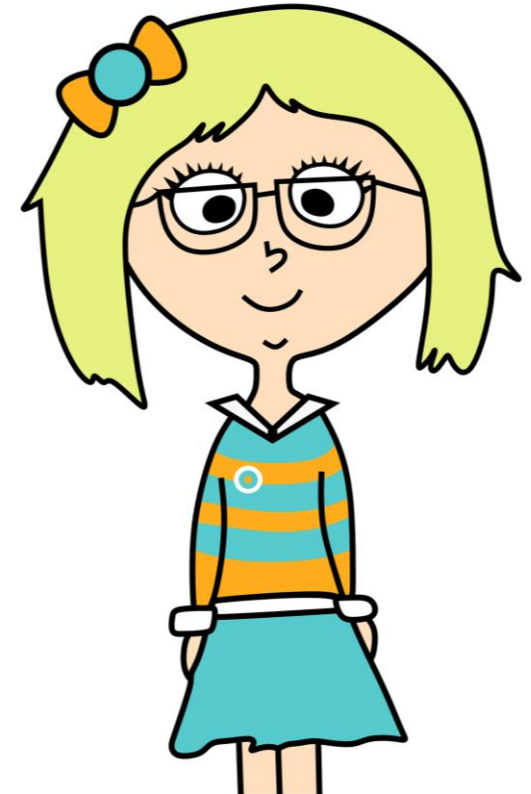
Mrs B's Economics reading list.....

- Free Lunch – David Smith, gives an overview of how an economy works
- Plain English Economics – a monthly summary of what is happening and why
- Australian Economics Statistics – an overview of all the topics along with questions and answers
- Micro Economics, Hubbard, Garnett, Lewis and O'Brien
- How Economics Works – a visual guide to Economics (DK)



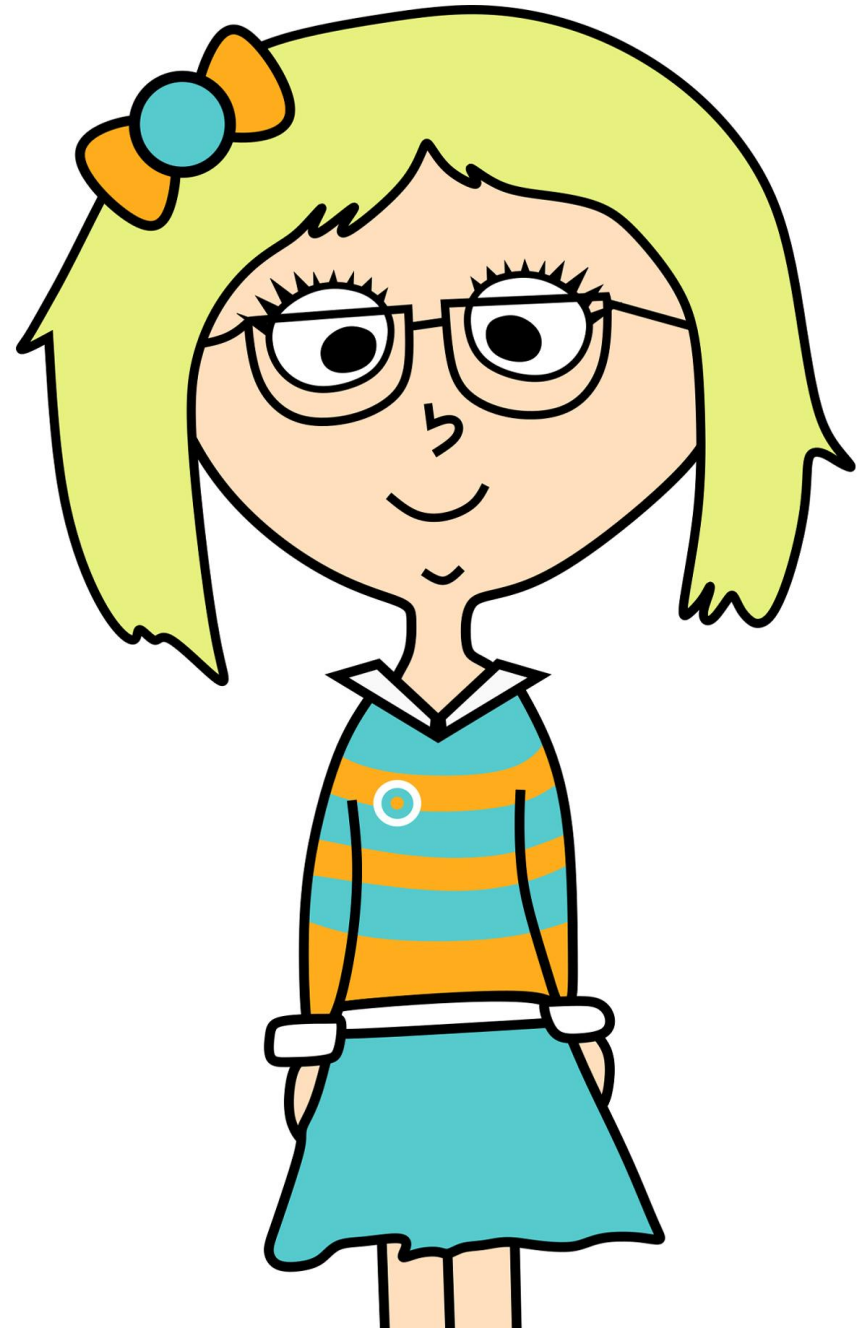
Bringing Economics to life....

- Look at the Economics news every day and select relevant stories to enhance student learning
- I start every lesson with Economics news, and I relate micro to macro
- Students need to understand what is happening in the economy and why
- Let's look at an example....

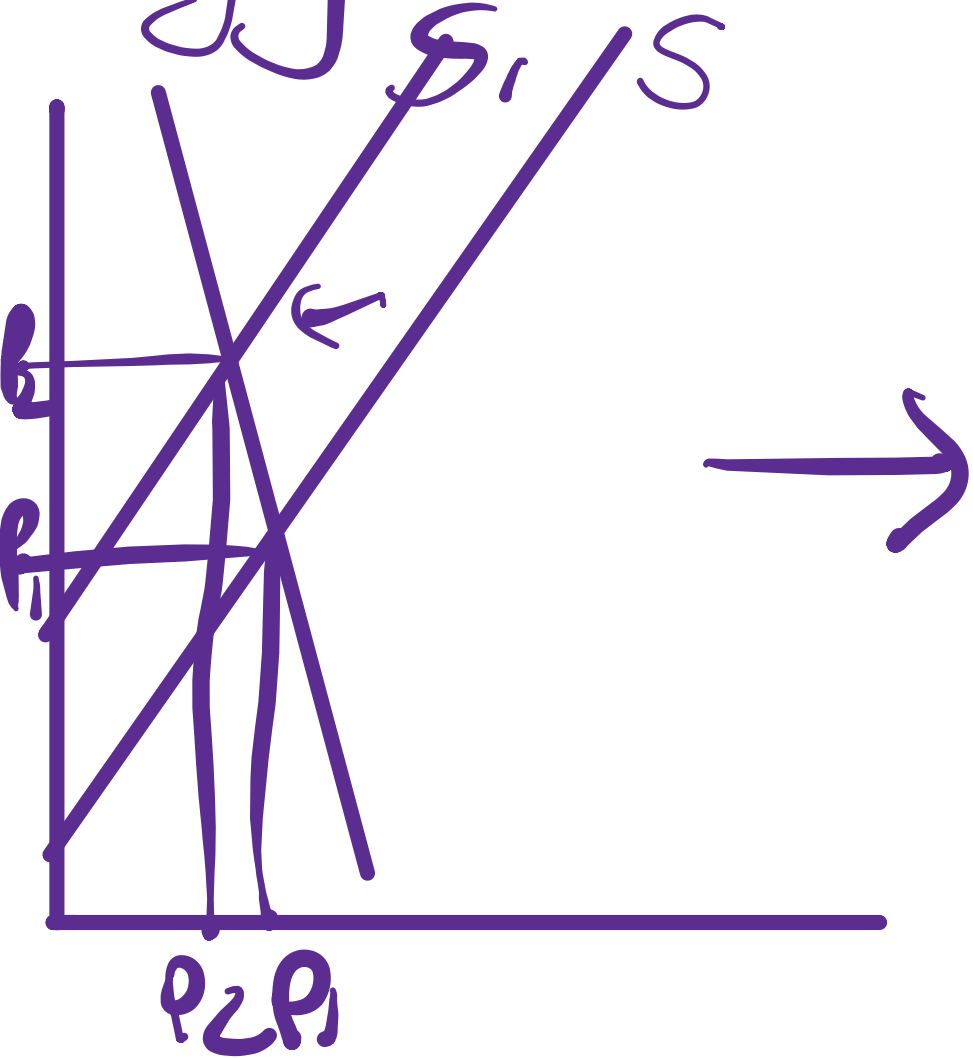


The egg market.....

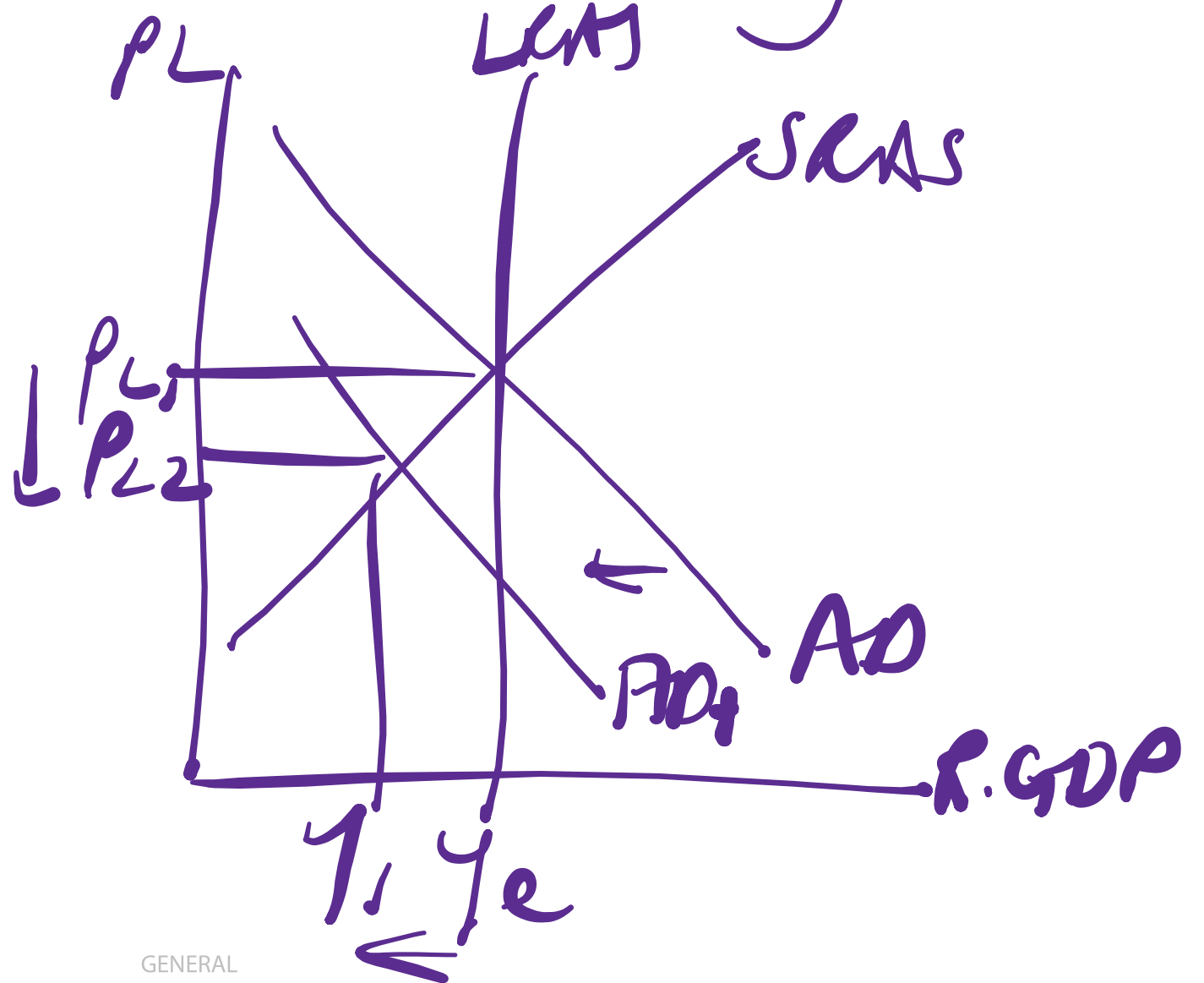
- Bird flu is impacting the supply of eggs
- What type of demand and supply do eggs have?
- Relate the impact of micro market on the macro economy.....



Egg market

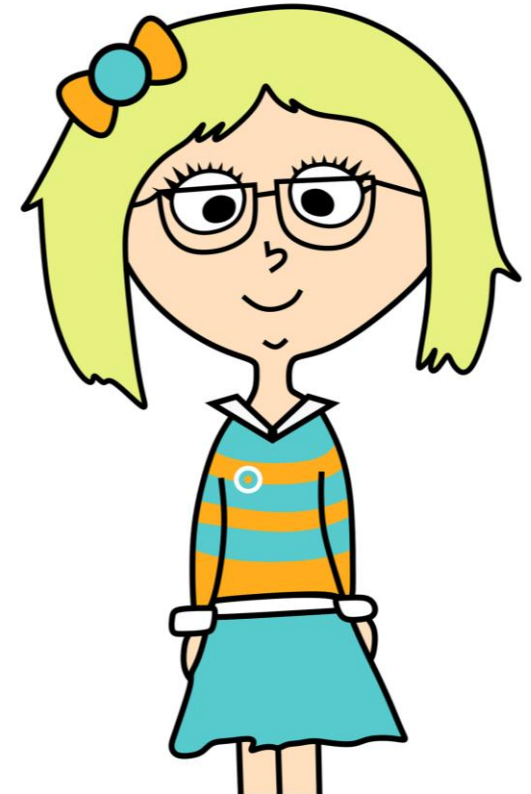


The economy ...



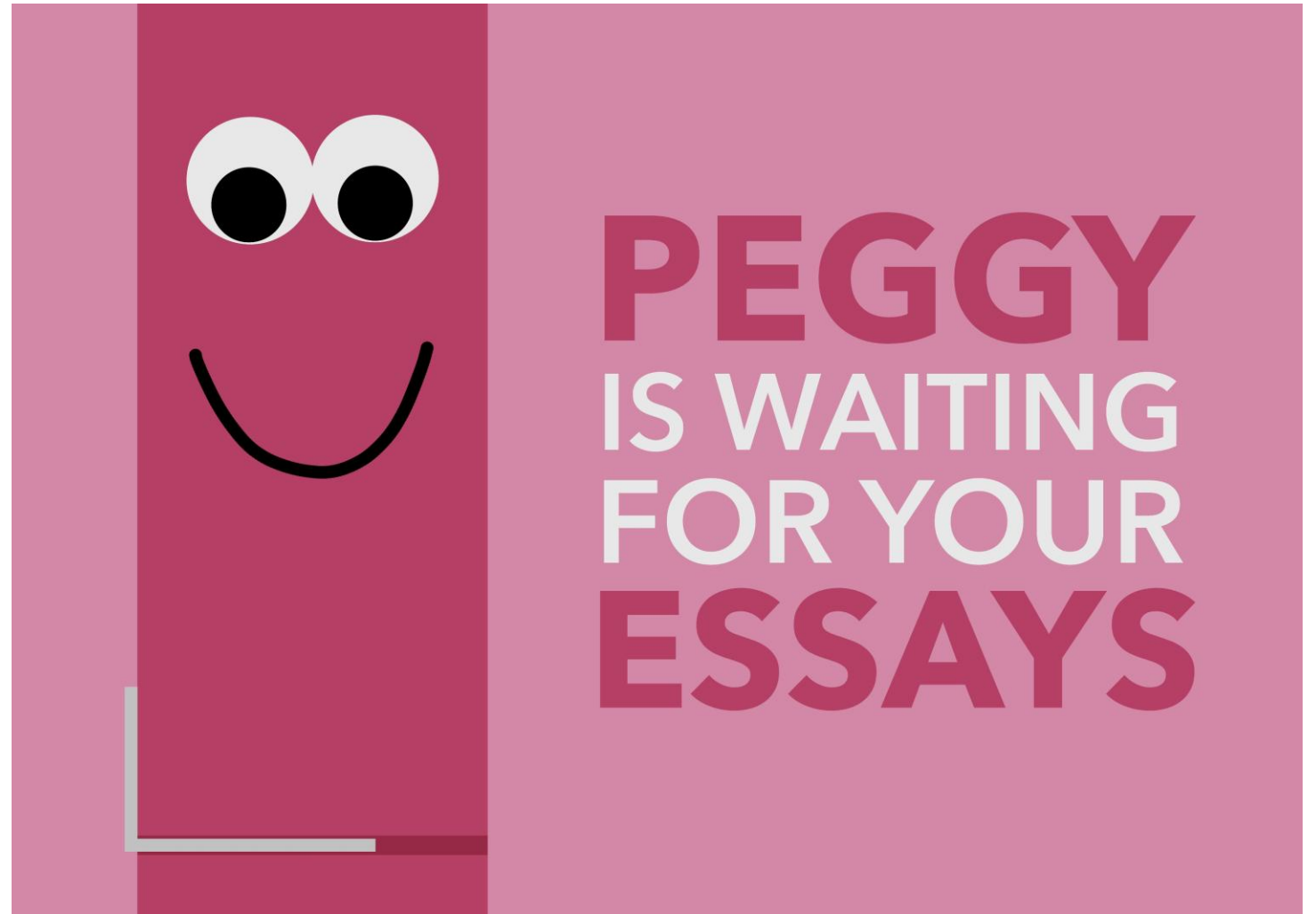
Focus on knowledge AND skills

- Don't just focus on teaching the concepts, students need skills too..
- Each Thursday in class students know its 'D-Day' – data day where I select data relevant to what we are studying to practice our data interpretation skills
- On Fridays I run the Socrative MCQ Challenge with 10 MCQ. I watch live as students answer MCQ and download the responses to analyse and then I re-teach concepts the following Monday



Focus on knowledge AND skills

- I give my Yr11s and Yr12s a practice question each week, and they hand it in for marking and feedback
- I have created syllabus checks with annotated syllabus points ready for revision



Innovation to inspire....

- I record regular podcasts with my colleague to re-explain concepts and engage students
- We have an Instagram Account 'Economics Central' to make students aware of important Economics news
- Help Classes before school each week
- Economist of the week receives a bag of chocolate coins
- Commutative coins after each exam
- Revision bonanzas
- Characters to help students understand: Chris Credit, Debbie Debit
- Countdown sleeps to the exam poster

