

Think for Yourself!

Strategies to increase the independence of learners

Monday, 9th October 2017

**Avonmouth House (an etc venue), 6 Avonmouth Street,
London SE1 6NX.**

A unique one-day joint conference from IAPS and Independent Thinking

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING

- Learn strategies to have children thinking for themselves
- Discover how to engage all children through curiosity and wonder
- Explore how to teach less so they think more
- Find out how to unlock their true writing potential
- Discover how to create classrooms where the learning just happens
- Explore the power of story to help them think and learn
- Take away many, many practical tips and ideas to help *all* learners

IAN GILBERT

Founder of Independent Thinking, currently based in Hong Kong, award-winning author of *The Little Book of Thunks* and *Why Do I Need a Teacher When I've Got Google?*

PHIL BEADLE

Independent Thinking Associate, award-winning teacher and author of *Rules for Mavericks*

MARK CREASY

Independent Thinking Associate and author of *Unhomework*

Dr DEBRA KIDD

Independent Thinking Associate and author of *Becoming Mobius; the Complex Matter of Education*

JONATHAN LEAR

Independent Thinking Associate and author of *Guerrilla Teaching*

Dr MATTHEW McFALL

Independent Thinking Associate and author of *The Little Book of Awe and Wonder*



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BOOKING

The cost of the conference is £199 (+VAT) per delegate

TO REGISTER

Website:

www.independentthinking.co.uk

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Phone: 0844 589 0490

REGISTER: conferences@independentthinking.co.uk

SPEAKERS

IAN GILBERT

Ian is an award-winning author and editor, a leading educational speaker and entrepreneur and a man who the IB magazine named as one of its top 15 educational 'visionaries'. Currently based in Hong Kong, he has lived and worked in the UK, South America and the Middle East and so has a special perspective on classrooms and systems, what works and what definitely doesn't.

PHIL BEADLE

No conference on helping children think for themselves would be complete without a contribution from award-winning teacher and writer Phil Beadle. From his work in schools across the UK and internationally to his columns for *The Guardian*, his many books and his TV performances reciting Shakespeare to cows or helping adult non-readers to read, Phil's work very much lives up to the title of his new book, *Rules for Mavericks*.

MARK CREASY

A former secondary head who retrained as a primary teacher to get back into the classroom, Mark shows how you actively engage young people of all ages in genuine learning and authentic discovery when you step back from the teaching and allow them to think for themselves a whole lot more. From reevaluating homework to throwing out the traditional lesson plan, Mark very much walks the talk.

Dr DEBRA KIDD

Creativity, discovery, exploration and wonder are right at the heart of Debra's work, whether she is teaching at reception stage, university level or every phase in between. In demand internationally for her expertise linking theatre, creativity and learning as well as her work in the UK campaigning for teacher professionalism, her doctoral research and her writing bring depth and academic rigour to the world of creativity in the classroom.

JONATHAN LEAR

A self-professed 'guerrilla teacher', Jonathan demonstrates how to use imagination, creativity, flair, bravery and a degree of 'desirable difficulty' to create lessons that will have your children learning despite themselves! A practising teacher and deputy head at an inner-city primary school, Jonathan doesn't so much teach as create a classroom atmosphere that is magical, engaging and exciting, ensuring all children are eager to learn.

Dr MATTHEW McFALL

Curiosity, wonder and magic improve motivation, engagement and learning - and Matthew's academic research and practical school-based activities prove it! Probably the world's only school-based 'Agent of Wonder', Matthew's work is all about the strategies and structures that generate wonder and curiosity, from a matchbox of intrigue to a full-fledged Cabinet of Curiosities.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS - IAN GILBERT



Welcome and introductions by Ian Gilbert, founder of Independent Thinking. Ian will act as chair for the day as well as contribute insights and strategies from his work across the globe helping schools reevaluate what they are about and working with children until 'their brains hurt'.

HIGH ORDER APPROACHES TO ORIGINAL WRITING - PHIL BEADLE



You can only read a child's story that ends 'And it was all a dream' so many times before you lose the will to live. In this challenging and practical session, let educational maverick, author and award-winning English teacher Phil Beadle show you how to add genuine originality to their work. From still-life writing and a 'sonnet in your pocket' to present tense flashbacks, poster poems and Viking villanelles, literacy will never be the same again.

WHEN CHILDREN LEAD THE R.E.V.O.L.T. - MARK CREASY



As a practising primary school teacher, Mark 'walks the talk' when it comes to getting children to think and work independently. Drawing on his R.E.V.O.L.T. model (Reassurance. Engagement. Voice. Opportunities. Learning. Time.) to engage children in cross-curricular, project-based learning along with the latest international research, he will share ideas and strategies to ensure children are motivated, engaged, empathetic and thinking for themselves.

UNCHARTED TERRITORIES: ADVENTURES IN LEARNING - Dr DEBRA KIDD



The quickest way to get children engaged and thinking is to immerse them in story, especially when they are in charge and even they don't know where the story will lead. Cognitive science tells us that stories are 'psychologically privileged', enhancing memory and engaging emotions. As such they are ideal for leading children into a world of dilemma-led inquiry as Debra will demonstrate.

SIR, I CAN'T DO MY BANANA! - JONATHAN LEAR



'Learned helplessness' is what happens when we do too much for, and not enough with, the children in our classrooms. It means the accidental death of originality, creativity and independent thought. In this entertaining and informative session, practising primary teacher, deputy head and author of *Guerrilla Teaching*, Jonathan Lear, will show how a 'mastery approach' can break the cycle of dependence and take children back to that place where they genuinely thought for themselves.

WONDERING, WANDERING AND WAYFINDING - Dr MATTHEW McFALL



Based on his doctoral research into wonder and learning as well as his experience as the UK's one and only school-based 'Agent of Wonder', Matthew will demonstrate the power of curiosity to stimulate interest, inspire exploration and provoke meaningful reflection in all classrooms. All it takes is to stop and look differently at the strangely wonderful and wonderfully strange world around us.

PROGRAMME

- 09:30** **ARRIVAL AND REFRESHMENTS**
- 10:00** **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**
IAN GILBERT
- 10:15** **UNCHARTED TERRITORIES: ADVENTURES IN LEARNING**
The power of story to stimulate great thinking
Dr DEBRA KIDD
- 11:15** **SHORT BREAK**
- 11:30** **WHEN CHILDREN R.E.V.O.L.T.**
Authentic cross-curricular project-based learning
MARK CREASY
- 12:30** **WONDERING, WANDERING AND WAYFINDING PART I**
The power of curiosity in the classroom
Dr MATTHEW McFALL
- 13:00** **LUNCH**
- 13:45** **WONDERING, WANDERING AND WAYFINDING PART 2**
More on the use of curiosity and learning
Dr MATTHEW McFALL
- 14:15** **HIGH ORDER APPROACHES TO ORIGINAL WRITING**
Creativity and literacy come together
PHIL BEADLE
- 15:15** **'SIR I CAN'T DO MY BANANA!'**
Difficulty, challenge and great thinking and learning
JONATHAN LEAR
- 16:15** **CLOSING COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS**
IAN GILBERT

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- a refund of 75% of your fee if you cancel with more than 3 weeks' notice (if a colleague cannot attend in your place)
 - no refund if you cancel with less than 3 weeks' notice

DATA PROTECTION – by registering for this event you agree to allow us to contact you in future. Should you not wish to hear from us please let us know

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