

Associate

DR DEBRA KIDD

“We’re pedagogical activists who can change the future, so hope, don’t mope, reform, don’t moan”



“Our obsession with measuring and certainty has driven us to a point of near despair and to moments of blind acceptance of the shiny and new” - Teaching: Notes from the Front Line

There’s a fight going on. While some are advocating putting teaching in a box labelled ‘Do it like this!’ others know there is much more to their learning than your teaching. Through her wide and varied experience in so many areas of education, Debbie knows that teaching and learning is a far more complex business than some would have us believe.

Part of her understanding about the nature of education comes from her rare experience having taught at every phase of the educational system, from early years and foundation stages, through primary and secondary to VIth form and even into teacher training at university level. Increasingly she finds herself these days asked to address school leaders and decision makers as well as the national media to fight for the sort of education she – and all at Independent Thinking - believe in.

Clearly a practitioner whose heart is in the classroom, she is also a thinker as her doctoral thesis proves, something we are proud to have published as her second book, *Becoming Mobius*.

Part of her skill is in helping teachers re-examine in almost microscopic detail the essence of their craft as well as challenge them to reflect on the moral purpose which should be at the heart of

what goes on in the classroom and the staffroom.

What’s more, at a time when the Arts are under attack in schools, she is a vocal advocate of the power of creative expression to help bring the best out of all children, regardless of their background or academic achievements. To deny children this opportunity is tantamount to a crime and she works globally supporting teachers and children through her work in schools and leading arts festivals for ISTA, the International School Theatre Association.

Debbie is at her best when she is challenging teachers to be inclusive in their practice – and challenging the school practices that prevent that from happening. Whether a child has special needs, is academically ahead of the rest, comes from a background of poverty or privilege, they all have the right to a curriculum that is creative, rich, challenging, meaningful and well rounded. With the curriculum – and children’s experience of school - becoming increasingly narrow, Debbie is more than ready and able to lead the fight.

Feedback from recent Events:

“Thank you so much for helping to make the AET HTs conference such

a stimulating, enjoyable and valuable occasion this week. I am deeply grateful to you”

“I would like to thank you enormously for your contribution to our annual conference. Especial thanks to you for your keynote presentation on “Being the teacher you wanted to be”. Your passion and drive for training and development of new entrants to the profession and the key drivers for the best teaching were particularly engaging”

Books written by Dr Debra Kidd:

- *Teaching: notes from the front line*
- *Becoming Mobius: The complex matter of education*
- *There is Another Way (contributor)*

Debra has been with Independent Thinking since January 2014.

All Independent Thinking Associates are DBS checked.

See our website:
www.independentthinking.co.uk
for more information.