

Associate

DR PHIL WOOD

“I can recommend becoming wonderfully transfixed by considering the complexity of education and the world beyond”



In an educational world that seems to be turning upside down at an alarming rate, Phil is who we at Independent Thinking turn to make sense of it all.

Drawing on his considerable experience nationally and internationally and across many areas of education and educational research, Phil is able to put government policies into context, getting to the heart of the motives behind them and reassuring us that there is always another way. (Although his ‘Emperor’s New Clothes’ approach to so much of what is happening in schools today does mean that, on occasions, there are groups of headteachers who want to, in his words, ‘lynch me’.)

Formerly a geography teacher, subject leader and AST in a large comprehensive, Phil is currently innovation lead on distance learning in the School of Education at the University of Leicester. Here he also teaches on the international masters courses and supervises on the university’s well-respected PhD and EdD programmes.

He is a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and is a member of the Collaborative Action Research Network, the Society for Research in Higher Education, the Association of Academic Developers in Higher Education and the Society for Educational Studies.

His academic credentials mean he is well placed when it comes to impartially observing the state of the country’s classrooms today and trying to make sense at a profound level of what is taking place within them.

He is particularly interested in trying to understand the complexity of pedagogy and how this can be used to develop critical, insightful approaches to classroom practice. Rather than seeing ‘professional development’ as being the result of a simplistic ‘What works’ agenda, Phil works with educators to reflect on their practice within their own, unique, context and then explore how improvements can best emerge through a sustained – and sustainable – approach to change.

With this in mind, he is a passionate advocate of strategies such as the Lesson Study approach and he is currently working on developing the concept of ‘Pedagogic Literacy’ as a member of the Lesson Study Research Group at the University of Leicester.

An intelligent, challenging, controversial, well-informed and inspiring speaker and teacher, now, more than ever, the world of education needs people like him

Books written by Phil:

- *There is Another Way (contributor)*
- *Educational Research: Taking the Plunge*

Phil has been with Independent Thinking since February 2014.

All Independent Thinking Associates are DBS checked.

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