

BUSINESS DIRECTOR

## DAVE HARRIS

*“Think differently, think beyond your reach and if what you are doing feels wrong - don't do it!”*

Is the current school system one that is fit for the future or better suited to the past? Dave Harris is passionate about ensuring we have a system that is genuinely designed for the 21st century and as one of the UK's most respected headteachers he has been putting his money where his mouth is for many years.

His previous role was as Principal of the Nottingham University Samworth Academy where he built from scratch a school that turned theory into practice. In collaboration with sponsors, staff, students and the wider community he worked on challenging some of the 'rules of education':

- That pupils should learn in age-related groups
- That primary and secondary education are best separated
- That learning in secondary school is best delivered through dedicated subject teams That 60-minute chunks are the optimum medium for learning
- That students should be seen and not heard
- That a clearly defined hierarchical leadership structure is the best way of leading change

Dave has worked as part of the SSAT System Redesign Group with Professor David Hargreaves and colleagues from some of the most innovative schools in Britain to clarify the 20 reconfigurations that typify the changes needed to prepare an education system for the

21st century. He is clear that a change in the nature of leadership - and the way schools approach change - is vitally important for schools to succeed.

A regular speaker at conferences to talk about his experiences which include forming and leading an 'all-through' school, Dave not only shares his views on the benefits of mixed- age schooling but also challenges the accepted nature of modern schooling itself, focusing on the ethos for learning, the need for love and respect in the staffroom as well as in the classroom, the relationships and the success – or otherwise – of communication across the whole school community.

In fact, a look at his CV reveals the expertise he can bring to a range of Events:

- System redesign
- Developing devolved leadership
- Through schooling/ transition
- Leadership through passion
- Practical strategies for developing learning
- Forming an extended school
- Collaboration/ federations/ amalgamations
- Developing an active research focus within a school
- He even has experience of education from an international perspective, having a Masters degree in International Education, and having worked with the Council of Europe in Strasbourg for five years.



*“In the gap between policy and children is where bravery lives” - Brave Heads*

Dave is Business Director of Independent Thinking in the UK as well as a popular speaker and writer both nationally and internationally.

Feedback about Dave's work from recent Events include:

*“I am writing on behalf of the Federation to thank you for your inspirational and hugely enjoyable address”*

*“The response to the presentation was unanimously favourable and I think you may be able to form a fan club in this area!”*

### Books written by Dave Harris:

- *Brave Heads: How to lead a school without selling your soul*
- *Are You Dropping the Baton?*
- *Leadership Dialogues*
- *Leadership Dialogues II*
- *There is Another Way (contributor)*

Dave has been with Independent Thinking since 2006

All Independent Thinking Associates are DBS checked.

See our website:  
[www.independentthinking.co.uk](http://www.independentthinking.co.uk)  
for more information.