

ASSOCIATE

LISA JANE ASHES

“It is because exams are not the end that teaching for our future is such a privilege”



“Manglish was an idea born from my disjointed experiences at school” - Manglish

‘Education is the business of manufacturing the minds of the future. What manufacturing business in the world has departments that barely work together in the process and then anticipate the product will assemble itself?! Your students’ brains are your product, your school is your business; there should be joined up thinking across all departments working together to create a whole child ready for the future.’

The above comes from Lisa’s introduction to her book *Manglish* written for the Independent Thinking Press. It sums up not only the theme of the book – how Maths and English can join forces to address literacy and numeracy together across the whole school – but also her take on what education is all about.

With all the pressure to turn schools into exam sausage factories passing out a smaller number of sausages with an ever more limited set of EBac ingredients (maths, English, a science, a humanity and, oh, I don’t know, Ancient Greek... yes, that should do it) it is down to individual teachers collaborating in real schools to hold their nerve and do what they need to do but in the way they know is right. Or, as we like to say, cover your back and sleep at night.

Lisa is an experienced and successful English teacher, AST and has taken a

leading role in Continued Professional Development at a secondary school in the North East of England assisting in the development of whole-school literacy. She is fully committed to researching, developing and implementing innovative strategies that will not only hit all the right targets when it comes to results and Ofsted but also develop properly, effectively and inclusively the ‘minds of the future’.

Among Lisa’s many strengths are not only her magpie-like ability to pick up ideas from across the world and make them work in her classroom but also her professional passion to then go on and share her ideas with colleagues through the whole gamut of 21st century CPD innovations including Twitter, TeachMeets, Pedagogoo and her very popular blog Reflections of a Learning Geek.

If you are looking for someone who is at the cutting edge of key school areas such as creativity, assessment for and of learning, behaviour, dealing with children from challenging backgrounds, differentiation, thinking skills and cross-curricular cooperation then Lisa could well be who you are looking for.

But if you want someone to show you how to get young people to sit still and pass their exams then she most definitely isn’t for you.

Feedback from recent Events:

“You’ve changed how I teach forever.”

“I would like to thank you for such an informative and thought-provoking CPD session delivered at the College’s annual teaching and learning conference. Your research, depth of understanding and ability to present in such an engaging way produced one of our most memorable CPD events and gave a great boost to our teaching staff”

“We really enjoyed the session and the students gained immensely. Lisa was a superb leader and really engaged the students.”

Books written by Lisa Jane Ashes:

- *Manglish*
- *There is Another Way* (contributor)
- *Don’t Change the Light Bulbs* (contributor)

Lisa has been with Independent Thinking since October 2012

All Independent Thinking Associates are DBS checked

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