

ASSOCIATE

MARTIN ILLINGWORTH

“Above all else, develop your students’ presence of mind and offer them an education of hope”

Occasionally people write to us and say, ‘I’ve just seen this amazing speaker. You must have him as part of your team!’. One such occasion was following a national conference on grammar and the name suggested to us, we are pleased to say, was Martin’s.

An English specialist with twenty-four years of teaching experience, both as classroom teacher and as Faculty leader, Martin is now Senior Lecturer in Education at Sheffield Hallam University, a consultant with The National Association for the Teaching of English and very much in demand as an Associate of Independent Thinking.

He is increasingly becoming a leading voice in English education today, bringing with him good humour, common sense and a passionate belief that what all students need is what he refers to as an ‘education of hope’.

Now more than ever, teachers need to hear sensible voices in the sea of noise that passes for educational debate. They need to see past the short-term goals of children passing exams and schools looking good on

the back of their results. Providing a genuinely purposeful education for our children means schools must do more than simply chase the ‘Outstanding’ banner for their school gates.

In his book *Think Before You Teach* published by the Independent Thinking Press, Martin asks teachers to reflect on why and how they intend to teach before they stand in front of the class.

At Sheffield Hallam, he has responsibility for the training of English teachers on PGCE, School Direct and Teach First routes. He has conducted research in Toronto, Canada into teacher training abroad and collated his findings into a short book *Education in the Age of the Information Super Highway* (2011) and published in The Canadian Journal for Education.

Martin works with schools and universities throughout the UK and abroad. He combines practical ideas with the opportunity for some deep thinking and his sessions remind teachers why they became teachers in the first place as he inspires them to think first, then teach.



“We must offer children an education of hope; that their lives right now have purpose and delight, and that the future is looking bright...” Think Before You Teach

Feedback from recent events:

“Great external speaker – motivating and inspiring but most importantly engaging. A very thought provoking talk!”

“Martin Illingworth was very motivational...pinning knowledge to emotions or feelings...laugh – cry – remember”

Books written by Martin Illingworth:

- *Think Before You Teach*
- *There is Another Way* (contributor)
- *Don’t Change the Light Bulbs* (contributor)
- *The Working Class* (contributor)

Martin has been with Independent Thinking since January 2014.

All Independent Thinking Associates are DBS checked.

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www.independentthinking.co.uk
for more information.