

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

NINA JACKSON

“Let’s decide to be the best that we can be - for the children we teach are our future”



“Education is like a sherbet lemon. We need the structures and systems - the hard exterior - but we can easily lose sight of the magic that is at the heart of this; the teaching and learning-the fizz in the centre”. Of Teaching, Learning and Sherbet Lemons

Education is a world of very special people but you will meet few as special as Nina ‘Ninja’ Jackson. With a background in mainstream and special needs education and many years’ experience in schools as a pedagogical and pastoral champion, Nina has a breath-taking grasp of what makes classrooms - and all the people in them-tick.

She is a highly creative educator and, whereas in her first book she shared her research on how music can improve learning and motivation in all classrooms, in her latest best-selling book, *Of Teaching, Learning and Sherbet Lemons: A compendium of careful advice for teachers*, she is helping put the ‘fizz’ back into classrooms for thousands of teachers.

You see, it’s all about the sherbet lemons!

Classrooms need to have the ‘hard stuff’ in place - rigour with the right systems in place, high expectations and a professionally inclusive approach to the achievement of all children. But there also needs to be the ‘fizz’ - the magic, the excitement, the emotional engagement, the sense of wonder, the passion for teaching and learning. What’s more, as an Apple Teacher, she works globally to help teachers embrace learning technologies in a

way that actually makes a difference. Sharing simple strategies and accessible hardware and software, Nina shows how simple it is to build technology into great lessons to bring the best out of all children, including those who might otherwise have trouble accessing the curriculum fully.

Yet it is her work as an international emotional health and well-being ‘ambassador’ for which she is currently most in demand. As we continue further down the line of high-stakes testing and market-driven education, the impact of these approaches for so-called school improvement are taking their toll on young people and adults alike. Speaking with compassion and drawing on a great deal of experience and expertise, Nina shows schools a way forward to ensure everyone can not only survive this toxic climate but thrive.

Whether it’s receiving standing ovations from audiences of school leaders, leading whole-school INSET days or twilights or working directly with children in their classrooms, Nina brings warmth, humanity, honesty, humour and fun to every environment, making a truly lasting impression wherever she goes. She is an Associate Director with Independent Thinking and works across the UK as well as in challenging environments in places such as Ghana, Chile and the Middle East.

Feedback from recent events:

“Your session was a breath of fresh air and we could all see your passion for education”

“Your positivity, passion and enthusiasm is truly infectious and has made a real impact on our children”

“An inspirational, amazing talk and you and your story will stay with me forever”

Books written by Nina Jackson:

- *Of Teaching, Learning and Sherbet Lemons*
- *The Working Class* (contributor)
- *There is Another Way* (contributor)
- *Big Book of Independent Thinking* (contributor)
- *The Little Book of Music in the Classroom*
- *Don’t Change the Light Bulbs* (contributor)

Nina has been with Independent Thinking for over 10 years.

All Independent Thinking Associates are DBS checked.

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