

## 877 Independent Minds Conference: stories, strategies and shared practice

**Date: Thursday 17 May 2018**

**Venue: Holiday Inn Hotel, Regent's Park, London W1W 5EE**

**Cost: Online £199 (non IAPS members – additional £100)**

Building on the success of *Independent Minds Conference in 2016*, our second conference will offer another fascinating opportunity for teachers to hear first-hand from schools about the approaches that they have found make a genuine difference to pupils' achievement and personal development.

With its focus once more on practical strategies to deepen learning, promote skillful thinking, foster a pro-challenge mindset and support the growth of intellectual character, this event explores the possibilities for teaching in a way that both raises performance *and* develops the mental, moral and social attributes increasingly essential for longer-term success and wellbeing.

Set within a framework of high-quality research from the fields of neuroscience, psychology and education and packed with lively presentations and guided discussion opportunities, this conference will promote the development of best practice through collaboration and discussion. We hope that all participants will leave with practical, usable ideas, as well as the confidence to determine the right way forward for their own school's unique context and culture.

The conference will also help to address questions regarding the new ISI Education Quality Inspection, whose definitions of 'excellent' now include descriptions of children who 'assess risk without being overly fearful'; who 'show strong perseverance' and 'are extremely resilient'; who 'think critically' and 'collaborate well'; and who are 'creative', 'adaptable' and 'self-reflective'.

### **Delegate feedback from the Independent Minds conference in 2016 was excellent:**

*"A superb course with instantly applicable ideas relevant to all levels and ages."*

*"Incredibly useful." "Very informative."*

*"Great speakers and real-life examples – inspirational."*

*"It is essential for all schools to take this approach in an increasingly stressful world. It's so positive."*

*"We are often asked 'so how will this work, who is already doing it?' – this was an opportunity to see success and ask lots of questions."*

**The Independent Minds conference in 2016 was fully booked, so an early response is advisable.**

**Audience:** School leaders and teachers at all levels

**Course Director:** C J Simister, MA Cantab MA London PGCE, Future-Smart® Consulting

**Speakers:** C J Simister, Janelle Ford (guest presenter, Claremont College NSW) and representatives from: The Gleddings Prep, York House, Bute House, Kensington Prep, The Cavendish School, St Christopher Junior School, and St Joseph's in the Park

If you would like to attend this conference, please book online at <https://iaps.uk/courses/detail/1107/>

**Full programme overleaf.....**

**CANCELLATION** If a delegate cancels his or her application up to and including 4 weeks prior to the date, a refund of 75% of the fee will be given. 50% of the fee will be refunded up to and including 2 weeks prior to the date. Thereafter, IAPS regrets that no refund can be made. **INSURANCE** IAPS regrets that it cannot accept liability for loss or damage however caused to the personal property of any person attending this of any other event organised under the auspices of the Association.

Book online at [iaps.uk](https://iaps.uk) IAPS, 11 Waterloo Place, Leamington Spa CV32 5LA Email [east@iaps.uk](mailto:east@iaps.uk)

IAPS Registered in England number 187052 VAT Registration number 240050327

**Programme: Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018****1000 Registration and coffee****1025 Welcome address***Mark Brotherton, Director of Education IAPS***1035 Keynote Presentation: Educating for Intellectual Growth***C J Simister, Future-Smart® Consulting; Independent Minds Course Director***1055 A Deeper-level Approach: Growing autonomy and winning parental support***Veronica Kitson, Key Stage One Lead, and Sally Wilkinson, The Gleddings Preparatory School*

The Gleddings aims to make each child as academically, emotionally and socially successful as possible. We are committed to creating lifelong learners, creative thinkers and independent minds. This will only happen if pupils develop the skills that underpin their learning and their lives. As a non-selective school with parents who set their sights on fiercely competitive local grammar schools, we have had to work very hard to persuade them to value learning skills as well as 'the result'. As teachers, we know 'the result' is more likely if our children are ambitious, self-assured, focused, creative, persistent and resilient. Our parents now agree! This presentation describes how we have made this transition.

**1110 Stretchy Minds and Yellow Days: Working with staff and pupils to create a powerful learning culture***Christian Saenger, Deputy Head (Academic), Emma Maitland-Gray, Head of Pre-Prep, York House*

At York House, we realised that in order to secure powerful learning for our pupils, we had to start with our staff. Using the latest research and the belief that 'when the adults change, everything changes', we took a number of small but significant steps to change the culture of our staffroom and transform the mindsets of our staff. As well as empowering staff, we are also sowing seeds with our youngest learners. Our two-pronged approach combines a dedicated curriculum of learning skills, competencies and metacognition with a programme from Yale University, known as RULER, which develops emotional intelligence. Our story will share how staff, alongside the girls and boys of the school, are preparing for what we can only hypothesise is ahead of them in education and the workplace today.

**1130 Guided Discussion Activity****1140 Embedding a learning culture that lasts***Rachael Vaughan, Head of Lower School, Bute House*

Currently in our third year of growing Learning Powers throughout the school, the teachers at Bute House are working to create a whole school culture where these intellectual attributes are such an everyday part of the ethos that they are impervious to pupil, staff and Senior Leadership turnover. In this presentation, Rachael will describe some of the methods that have been used to future-proof their programme, share mistakes that have been made and learnt from along the way, and demonstrate how girls and teachers now reference their Learning Powers on a daily basis.

**1205 An Education Fit for the Future: Transforming the learning experience***Prudence Lynch, Head, Kensington Prep School*

We need to remove the straightjacket of Victorian-style classroom design and give children skills of flexibility, willingness to take risks, resilience, reflectiveness and more. Kensington Prep's 'Creating Spaces for Growing Minds' programme has transformed classrooms into powerful spaces for learning. Head Prudence Lynch explains the school's experience of innovating teaching and learning around new principles of creative and critical thinking, independent exploration and collaborative learning.

**1215 Lunch and poster presentations**

A chance to visit the displays provided by participating schools and to talk to speakers

**1325 Two Practical Approaches for Encouraging Independent Minds***Katharine Wilkinson, Deputy Head Academic, The Cavendish School*

At The Cavendish School we put Thinking Skills at the heart of our approach to teaching and learning. We have identified 17 Thinking Skills, which we teach explicitly in Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education and implicitly across our curriculum. Two of the tools we use to implement this are *Think Explore Discover* (T.E.D.) and *Philosophy for Children* (P4C). In this presentation, I will be sharing practical examples of how we embed these practices in our school and will show how, In this way, we aim to prepare children for a future in which their academic ability will need to be matched by the ability to tackle and overcome the many and varied challenges that they will face throughout their lives.

**1345 Guest Presentation: When best practice becomes common practice***Janelle Ford, Deputy Principal, Claremont College, NSW, Australia*

Claremont College is a co-educational independent primary school in the eastern suburbs of Sydney, Australia. Its culture is that of research, review and reflection - seeking exemplary methodologies that fit well within its environment and identifying what has the greatest impact on student learning. One of these is C J Simister's thinking and learning dispositions, which teachers have been embedding into the curriculum for eight years. The aim is that a student leaving at the end of Year 6 will have developed a sound understanding of who they are as a learner, and how and when to employ the appropriate dispositions to help them grow and learn more effectively. In her presentation, Janelle will share evidence of her school's journey and examples of the impact this has had on their students.

**1410 G.R.I.T (Guts, Resilience, Initiative, Tenacity)***Zareena Subhani, Deputy Head of Junior School, St Christopher Junior School*

This presentation describes the innovative work Zareena began at Lochinver House and is now developing at St Christopher School. Her **G.R.I.T** toolkit, created as part of her Masters degree, is designed to inspire both students and adults, to promote independence and to enable people to cope more effectively with the difficulties life throws at them. This practical programme provides students with opportunities to grow their **G.R.I.T** through the development of specific learning habits and through the recognition that failure is an essential learning opportunity. During her presentation, Zareena will share samples of work, videos and a step-by-step approach to developing G.R.I.T. in a school or home setting

**1425 Break****1445 Independence, Resilience and Global Thinking: What does it mean in the classroom?***Paul Ross, Key Stage One teacher, St Joseph's in the Park Preparatory School*

St Joseph's is engaged in an exciting whole-school journey, exploring ways of instilling a genuine passion for learning while also preparing children for the challenges of a competitive world. This presentation explores the impact this is having at the chalkface: on me as a teacher and on my pupils. Very much focused on the practical, I will share some of the techniques I have embedded into my daily teaching, many of which have already demonstrated impact at both KS1 and KS2. In addition, I will highlight how my mindset as a practitioner has developed and how boundaries that I once thought existed no longer stand in the way.

**1500 Guided Discussion Activity: Taking practical action one step at a time****1525 Panel Discussion: Q&A****1545 Closing Thoughts***C J Simister, Future-Smart® Consulting; Independent Minds Course Director***1600 Depart**



## Location Details

**Holiday Inn  
LONDON-REGENT'S PARK  
CARBURTON STREET  
LONDON, W1W5EE**

**[Tel :0870-4009111](tel:0870-4009111)**



### Underground

Great Portland St station 60 metres (Circle, metropolitan and Hammersmith and city lines)

Warren St station ¼ mile (Northern and Victoria lines)

Regents Park station ¼ mile (Bakerloo line)

### Rail

Euston ¾ mile,

Kings Cross St. Pancras 1 mile

Paddington 2 miles (for the Heathrow Express)

### Air

Heathrow Airport 19 miles

Gatwick Airport 29 miles