



THINKING WEEK

OUR GUEST SPEAKER: TERESA WILLIAMS International Thinking Schools Facilitator

This is a series of five, one-day workshops that, if taken together, provide an introduction to both the concept of the 'Thinking School,' and the essential elements within it. Each of the workshops also stands alone.

A 'Thinking School' is one within which the further development of a student's capacities as an independent, self-managing and reflective learner drive both teaching and pedagogy.

The full programme is as follows:

DAY 1: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE CONCEPT OF THE THINKING SCHOOL.

The workshop examines the possibilities and potential of developing a culture in which independent thinking is cultivated.

It covers:

- The importance of the guiding principles, beliefs and values behind a Thinking School.
- The starting points for becoming a Thinking School.
- How to create a strategy for continuing the journey towards becoming a Thinking School.
- The context for a thinking school. Key questions are addressed. For example:
 - Why become a Thinking School?
 - What is the difference between a good school and a thinking school?
 - What difference does becoming a Thinking School make to the everyday activities of students, teachers and leaders?
 - What are the characteristics of a thinking student?
 - What is a student-centred thinking toolkit?

DAY 2: THE TEACHER AS FACILITATOR OF CURIOSITY, QUESTIONING AND ENQUIRY

The workshop revisits the starting points for becoming a Thinking School and focuses on higher order thinking, higher order questioning, challenge, generative thinking and questioning for enquiry. The workshop explores questioning techniques which also underpin the following two workshops. We leave with some 'quick wins,' with which to take immediate action.

DAY 3: DEVELOPING INTELLIGENT LEARNING BEHAVIOURS

The workshop supports the development, within a Thinking School, of self-reflective students. It draws on Art Costa's 'Habits of Mind,' which, in turn identified the dispositions of successful, motivated learners and what differentiates them from others.

DAY 4: STUDENT- CENTRED THINKING TOOLS

The workshop centres on an aspect of the student tool-kit that is proven to have a huge impact on independent learning - using visual tools to organise and communicate thinking. We introduce David Hyerle's Thinking Maps as a common visual language and explore the nature of their role within a thinking classroom.

DAY 5: LEADING AND MANAGING A THINKING SCHOOL.

The workshop covers the essential requirements when building a Thinking School. These are to do with values, vision, planning and sustainability.

We ask the questions:

- How do we bring about 'whole school' transformational change over time?
- What models of change are there to help us?
- How do we induct our staff and continue to develop and monitor their progress, within our culture, year on year?
- What might be the purpose and function of a 'drive team'?

The workshop helps to galvanize the preceding four days into an action plan, but also stands alone and is crucial to school thinking coordinators as well as members of leadership teams.

The five workshops, whilst independent of each other are also linked, incremental and provide a robust and integrated overview and examination of what it is to lead and become a Thinking School. The days are interactive, practical and immediately relevant to the current curriculum. Each day is provided with a separate resource for each participant.

The five day programme is relevant to both newcomers to the field, those who have already achieved a considerable amount and those who would welcome an opportunity to evaluate and check progress so far.

DATE: 22 May - 26 May 2017

TIME: 08:00 - 16:00

COST: R1500 per day

VENUE: Grayston Preparatory School, Sandown, Johannesburg

To book your place or for more information, please contact: Nicole Liebenberg - nicolel@graystonprep.co.za OR Nicola Scriven - nicolas@graystonprep.co.za

