



Newsletter - June 2011

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The New Ofsted Framework

The new Ofsted framework will be implemented from January 2012 and will have a few significant differences to the current one. However, it is also reassuring that there are areas where the plan is to retain current criteria and build on it. The focus on how well pupils progress and how schools measure and promote the outcomes of pupils' learning remain as do the current grade descriptors and the focus on ensuring that the inspection takes into account the views of pupils, parents and staff. In terms of differences there will be a sharper focus on reading, literacy and numeracy and an emphasis on skills development that ensures learners can develop as independent and deep learners. Inspectors will spend more time in the classroom and there will be more feedback given to teachers although it is intended that there will be fewer judgements given. In this way Ofsted are hoping that they can tell the story of each school more effectively. The emphasis seems to be much more on what is happening in the classroom, the discussions with teachers, other staff and pupils. Where data is used as evidence of success it is essential that schools are using the data to develop strategies that lead to high levels of pupil progress and attainment for all learners.

Teaching and learning is at the heart of this new framework and schools need to focus on how to ensure more of their teachers are able to demonstrate outstanding practice in their teaching. There will be an increased focus on reading, competence in number and how well pupils are progressing. There is also an imperative for teachers to use their expertise to deepen pupils' subject knowledge and understanding through teaching them the skills needed to make progress and help them learn for themselves.

The work that we do is already deeply committed to ensuring teachers have the skills, knowledge and attributes to be outstanding and to engage in professional dialogue that cascades a culture of excellence and improvement across a whole organisation, the news so far about the changes to the Ofsted inspection regime reassures us that we have a suite of programmes and events that really do support you in building high quality learning that leads to success for all.

Visit our website excellence.learningcultures.org where you can view our programmes for the autumn term as well as see what is on offer for the rest of this term. We can also design an INSET programme that will help you towards a sustainable and cost effective CPD programme for all your staff.

Glynis Frater Learning Cultures Limited

Second chance to attend
our Transition Conference

[Our Autumn Conference](#)

Our Autumn Conference – Crossing the Bridge from Key Stage 2 to 3

Research suggests that 39% of learners dip in performance at the end of their first year in secondary school. To address this stark statistic some schools have developed some innovative solutions. We bring together best practice, original and inspirational solutions. Following on from our very successful series of events focusing on the transition process from Key Stage 2 to 3 we are hosting a conference to bring together the wealth of ideas and good practice that exists around the country. We hope to attract teachers and their primary transition partners so that they have the opportunity to review their own practice and take away ideas to enhance and improve the process.

Our current programme of training events this term and next – click on each event for more information

[Harnessing Achievement at Key Stage 3](#)

[Coaching for Cover Supervisors](#)

[Raising Achievement at Key Stage 4](#)

[What Makes an Outstanding Teacher?](#)

[Success Through Performance Management](#)

[Maths in Context - Making Curriculum Connections](#)

[Developing a Foundation Learning Programme](#)

[Coaching towards Excellence in Teaching and Learning](#)

[Language, Literacy and Listening – Making Language Matter across the Curriculum](#)

[Functional Skills - Planning for Success with Post 16 Learners](#)

Check the website for new autumn dates

www.learningcultures.org

[The Effective use of ICT in a 21st Century Curriculum](#)

New training events for the autumn term

Keep checking the website for more information

- ❖ **Mentoring NQTs** – Newly qualified teachers are one of a schools best assets, they can be motivated, innovative and bring fresh new ideas. This event helps mentors to harness their enthusiasm and develop their potential
- ❖ **Developing Learner Voice** – We focus on learning and active pedagogy to ensure that the learner is aware of how they learn and how they can develop techniques that support their ability to progress and develop higher level learning skills
- ❖ **Coaching for Support Staff** – We are building on our very successful series Coaching for Cover Supervisors and offering a similar programme for all support staff. Creating opportunities for support staff and teachers to work closely together and develop a positive dialogue that supports learning can create powerful results.
- ❖ **Transition from Key Stage 3 to 4** – Focusing on skills development so that learners are more equipped to develop the autonomous, independent and creative skills that lead to deep learning and the seamless ability to achieve a C or above at GCSE. We look at a range of strategies that can support a thematic approach to learning post options in year 9 that involves the learners in problem solving, creative thinking and partnership working

Language, Literacy and Listening Across the Curriculum

The new Ofsted framework has a much stronger emphasis on the need for teachers to focus on ensuring learners have the literacy skills that help them to become high level learners. Putting developing literacy skills at the heart of every lesson objective and learner target will ensure that learners do develop these skills unconsciously and be able to access a wider context for their learning which will inevitably lead to higher level responses over time. An emphasis on language and literacy skills provides a foundation for learners to build their subject knowledge. High level competence in reading, writing, speaking and listening means the learner can access the question more easily, ask complex questions, listen and assimilate more effectively and develop skills that lead to higher levels of response in their writing and presentations.

Our training offer **Language, Literacy and Listening Across the Curriculum** gives subject leaders and others with responsibility for improving learner performance the opportunity to focus on how they can help to ensure that the emphasis on language learning is every teacher's responsibility. We provide those who attend with an in-depth look at effective methods to teach speaking and listening skills, develop strategies that help learners to read and understand, extract information and write for purpose. Whatever the subject the ability to read, write, listen and present with confidence will lead to higher grades and a greater understanding of the subject.

Maths in Context

We are mindful of the inclusion in the brief that precedes the publication of the next Ofsted framework that ensuring learners have good skill in the use of number will be something all teachers will need to think about and not just those who teach maths. Maths teachers should be embracing this concept and promoting how their teaching can be strengthened by identifying where the concepts are being embedded in the context of other subjects. Without a doubt where learners make connections across the subjects they are more likely to understand and be motivated to learn more.

Our training programme **Maths in Context** is for subject leaders and teachers from across the curriculum, curriculum managers who want to focus on developing effective numeracy skills of all learners or Heads of Maths who want to develop strategies to help other teachers to use maths more effectively in their subject. We support those who attend to recognise where number is an integral part of the learning and how to help learners make connections, develop higher level numeracy skills and raise their level of response through the use of number for analysis.

Designing an ICT Curriculum for the 21st Century

We have developed a really exciting training opportunity for teachers who want to use the many tools and techniques to greater effect in their teaching. ICT can hold real power to engage learners and lead them to develop their subject knowledge through enquiry, application and presentation. We encourage those who attend to share their learning with others so that the use of ICT as a powerful learning tool can be shared and cascaded to others. Click on the title above to find out more and book a place or visit our website and go to events www.learningcultures.org

What Makes an Outstanding Teacher?

revised to reflect the impending changes to the new OFSTED framework

We have new dates for this highly regarded event that creates opportunities to talk about outstanding teaching and learning in all types of learning environment. Make a date to be inspired and really focused on what it is that sets an outstanding teacher apart from the rest.

18th July 2011	19th July 2011	20th July 2011	21st July 2011
Manchester	Birmingham	Central London	Leeds

Foundation Learning –creating pathways for learners achieving below a GCSE Grade A* - C

Foundation Learning aims to create real progression opportunities for learners working below a C grade at GCSE or who are unlikely to achieve GCSEs at all. We have been working with delegates from around the country to look at how they can develop strategies that support learning and enhance opportunities for learners to succeed, achieve and enjoy their learning experience.

We focus on how to build a really effective curriculum model using the QCF and how teachers and their support staff can weave in the personal, social development work as well as how to best integrate the development of effective literacy, numeracy and ICT skills. The Foundation Learning Programme is a powerful framework for progression allowing all learners to achieve their full potential. Book online at www.learningculture.org

Let us plan your next inset

We can take the strain and put together an INSET package to support teaching and learning. We will work with you to develop a range of themes linked to your school improvement plan. We work with staff to develop a range of coaching skills so that your staff work together to become reflective practitioners who focus on cascading best practice, share resources and develop cross curricular connections. Developing a strategy for school improvement that is driven by the staff ensures a cost effective staff development programme that really works.

Resources

Have a look at Talking Tins a product to help learners of all ages develop speaking and listening skills www.talkingproducts.co.uk

A new service focusing on primary literacy has just been launched www.learningunleashed.co.uk we will be working together to look at some joint work focusing on the bridge between primary and secondary and how to ensure that there is not a dip in performance in literacy and learners take their place in their secondary school

Policy Watch

Autonomy, raising standards and closing the achievement gap for those learners at the lower end of the income spectrum are all recurring themes in Michael Gove's speech to the Policy Exchange on Free Schools.

The new OFSTED framework will have four areas of focus

- Achievement
- Behaviour
- Quality of Teaching and Learning
- Leadership and Management

We will let you know how this progresses



Visit our website at
www.learningcultures.org

Call
01746 765076 | 07974 754241
Email
info@learningcultures.org