# **Institute** for **Teaching**

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022 | 8.30am – 3.10pm

# Exeter Racecourse | #litconf22

# Literacy Conference 2022

# **Keynote Speakers**



David Didau | Senior Lead Practitioner for English at Ormiston Academies Trust *Building a Reading Culture* 



John Tomsett | Education Consultant & Former Headteacher *What is a Rich, Challenging, Coherent 0-19 English Curriculum?* 



Helen Prince | English Advisor & Founder & CEO of ChatterStars *Creative Talk, Resilient Speakers* 

Plus - workshops from David Didau, John Tomsett, Helen Prince, Lance Hansen (AQA), Scott Davies & Vicky Thornton (WeST), Andrea Quincey (OUP), Ellie Ashton (Bedrock Learning) & Serdar Ferit (Lyfta)

Cost: SWIFT Members £95 | Other Colleagues £145

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# Information About Keynotes



# Building a Reading Culture

DAVID DIDAU

#### **Keynote Session**

The book is in a death battle with the phone. Fewer children report enjoying reading or choosing to read regularly than ever before. Does this matter? And if it does, what can we do about it? How can school communities reposition reading as important and valued enough to spend time on instead of all the other options available? And what can teachers do to support students whose reading fluency is a barrier to accessing the curriculum?

# Bio

David Didau is Senior Lead Practitioner for English at Ormiston Academies Trust and a freelance writer, blogger, speaker, trainer and author. He started his award-winning blog, The Learning Spy, in 2011 to express the constraints and irritations of ordinary teachers, detail the successes and failures within his own classroom, and synthesise his years of teaching experience through the lens of educational research and cognitive psychology. Since then he has spoken at various national conferences, has directly influenced Ofsted and has worked with the Department for Education to consider ways in which teachers' workload could be reduced.



# What is a Rich, Challenging, Coherent 0-19 English Curriculum?

#### Keynote Session

In this session John Tomsett discusses what he has learnt about the English curriculum, from Early Years to A Level, from his work on the HUH-project with Mary Myatt, where they have interviewed key English curriculum designers about shaping the English curriculum.

#### Bio

John Tomsett taught for 33 years in state schools and was a teaching headteacher for 18 years. Until August 2021 he led Huntington School in York. He writes a blog called *This Much I Know*, and has written extensively about school leadership. He has previously published six books and is currently working with Mary Myatt on a Primary version of "Huh" and they have plans for "Huh: SEND" and "Huh: Alternative Provision".

John maintains that the best thing for our students is that our teachers are happy, healthy, well-qualified, highly motivated, hard-working, well-trained experts; consequently, he believes we should *put staff first*.

He is now engaged in supporting the next generation of school leaders, with a resolute focus upon improving the quality of teaching & learning, and developing the school curriculum. The erstwhile leader of Huntington Research School in York, he believes that an evidence-informed approach is central to successful school improvement.



Creative Talk, Resilient Speakers

## **Keynote Session**

To express ourselves, we have to know ourselves - know what we love, what is important to us, what frightens or consoles, inspires or repels us. As teachers and leaders, we strive to elicit these building blocks of expression that motivate learning and underpin daily classroom talk. This keynote will explore the concept of creative talk and ways to build resilient speakers, confident to express their ideas, hopes and emotions.

## Bio

An English teacher, senior leader and adviser, Helen has led English, literacy, and drama provision for over 20 years. Her work benefits from time spent as English lead for the UK's largest MAT, Ofsted Inspector, acting head, author, trainer, and speaker. To date, Helen has worked with over 300 school leadership teams across the UK focusing on vocabulary, literacy, and English.

Helen provides vocabulary and oracy training for many trusts and conferences, including Whole Education, OUP and ASCL. She is host of the 'Word-Up' podcast series for Oxford Education and her three vocabulary books, 'Get It Right: Boost Your Vocabulary' have recently been published. Fuelled by her passion to address the word gap, Helen has recently launched a series of apps to boost vocabulary: 'Chatterstars'.





# Information About Workshops | 10:30 – 11:15



Using the English curriculum as a progression model DAVID DIDAU

## Workshop Session

We've all heard that the curriculum should be our model of progression, but what does this actually mean? All too often, students experience the curriculum we teach but fail to make the progress we expect. This session will explore why the English curriculum often seems to fail to achieve its intentions and how we need to change our thinking to ensure curriculum and assessment are aligned.

# Bio

David Didau is Senior Lead Practitioner for English at Ormiston Academies Trust and a freelance writer, blogger, speaker, trainer and author. He started his award-winning blog, The Learning Spy, in 2011 to express the constraints and irritations of ordinary teachers, detail the successes and failures within his own classroom, and synthesise his years of teaching experience through the lens of educational research and cognitive psychology. Since then he has spoken at various national conferences, has directly influenced Ofsted and has worked with the Department for Education to consider ways in which teachers' workload could be reduced.



# Teaching War Photographer JOHN TOMSETT

# Workshop Session

In this poem John Tomsett explores Christine Counsell's curriculum concept of the Core & Hinterland - how far can you go off-piste when teaching poetry?

#### Bio

John Tomsett taught for 33 years in state schools and was a teaching headteacher for 18 years. Until August 2021 he led Huntington School in York. He writes a blog called *This Much I Know*, and has written extensively about school leadership. He has previously published six books and is currently working with Mary Myatt on a Primary version of "Huh" and they have plans for "Huh: SEND" and "Huh: Alternative Provision".

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# Ways with Poetry

#### Workshop Session

Poetry is the cordial of language. This session will focus on using poetry to inspire talk, boost vocabulary and improve writing.

#### Bio

An English teacher, senior leader and adviser, Helen has led English, literacy, and drama provision for over 20 years. Her work benefits from time spent as English lead for the UK's largest MAT, Ofsted Inspector, acting head, author, trainer, and speaker. To date, Helen has worked with over 300 school leadership teams across the UK focusing on vocabulary, literacy, and English.

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# Information About Workshops | 13:15 – 14:00



How to Shape & Craft Writing for Paper 2 Language, Question 5 LANCE HANSEN

# Workshop Session

In this workshop, we will look at the typical features of successful writing in this context, including paragraph cohesion and whole text coherence.

# Bio

Lance Hanson is a teacher of English and a senior examiner for GCSE English Language Paper 2.



# Forensic Reading & Effective Implementation SCOTT DAVIES & VICKY THORNTON

#### Workshop Session

Scott Davies explores the approach to implementing Forensic Reading across a Trust and Vicky Thornton, a literacy lead and Assistant Principal in one of WeST's schools, models the ingredients of Forensic Reading as if you were a class of pupils.

## Bio

Vicky Thornton is one the SWiFT English Professional Community leads founding the network in 2017 – she is one of the organisers of the first SW Literacy Conference which was successful in 2019 along with other events. She is an experienced Senior Leader and a former Trust-wide Director of English. Recently, she moved to WeST, taking on the role of Assistant Principal for Literacy across an 11-18 school with over 2500 pupils.



Nurturing children for our changing world: the amazing power of diverse human stories SERDAR FERIT

## Workshop Session

Explore how interactive human stories provide a powerful and captivating way to weave diversity into teaching.

The session will cover:

- The use of immersive learning resources to build visual literacy
- The importance of introducing diverse narratives and perspectives to students
- Academic research on the impact of human stories on learners
- The role emotions play in deep learning

#### Bio

Serdar Ferit is a filmmaker, digital experience designer, and teacher who has won numerous awards and worked in over 20 countries on film, new media and education projects. As an early adopter of 360 degree storytelling and Virtual Reality (VR), in 2010 Serdar learned how to take and construct 360 degree film and images and has been working on immersive stories using this medium ever since. Since 2016, Serdar has been Co-CEO of Lyfta, an award-winning Finnish educational resource that specialises in teaching skills, values and global citizenship through immersive experiences.





The role of high-quality levelled texts in supporting reading progress ANDREA QUINCEY

## Workshop Session

An exploration of the role that levelled reading books can play - within a wider primary school reading curriculum and culture - in developing children's reading and language skills, building their confidence as readers and preparing them for the demands of reading in secondary school. The session will include an overview of the Oxford Reading Levels, the text levelling system developed and used by Oxford University Press.

## Bio

Andrea Quincey has worked in educational publishing - with a focus on primary literacy - for over 20 years and has contributed to some of the UK's most popular literacy programmes, most notably the award-winning Project X series. In her current role she manages a market-leading product portfolio that, as well as Project X, includes the globally renowned Oxford Reading Tree and the highly effective Read Write Inc programmes.

Andrea has worked with and learned from many of the leading researchers and thinkers in literacy education, as well as many practising classroom teachers and school leaders. Andrea's own expertise spans: synthetic phonics, reading comprehension, the 'gender gap' in literacy, developing children's oral and written communication skills, assessment of reading and writing, and effective text levelling. She is also a key contributor to OUP's ongoing research into the 'word gap'.



What is disciplinary literacy and how can it improve student outcomes across the

What does it take to communicate like an expert in English? What about Geography? Biology? In this session, Ellie Ashton will explore the importance of disciplinary literacy and share her findings into how schools across the country are improving cross-curricular literacy. This research-driven, evidence-based session will explore the research behind disciplinary literacy, provide case studies from a wide range of practitioners and provide practical steps that can be taken to make impactful progress on literacy improvement.

#### Bio

As Head of English in a large comprehensive academy in Leeds, Ellie Ashton spearheaded the improvement of vocabulary and disciplinary literacy across the school. She supported every teacher to become a teacher of vocabulary to enable all learners to access the curriculum. She was responsible for staff CPD in her school and led literacy focused CPD across the Trust her school was part of - one of the largest in the country. During this time, Ellie undertook an MA in Leadership and Education and gained her NPQML and is also a PTI accredited subject lead.

Ellie is now the Senior English Specialist at Bedrock Learning, using her extensive practical experience to inform the development of tech designed to improve literacy outcomes for learners. Ellie leads regular webinars about disciplinary literacy and is the host of a literacy-focused podcast shorts series.

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