



Inspirational professional learning

thinkwell's 'Thinking for Learning' course draws on years of research by colleagues at Newcastle University's Centre for Learning and Teaching coupled with our own extensive experience of working with students, teachers, tutors and leadership teams.

This highly enjoyable course brings together the key elements of our approach and powerfully demonstrates its value for learning and teaching.

It encourages participants to reflect on themselves and their teaching and to collaborate on building a shared understand of the tools and techniques that the course provides and how they can apply these to good effect in their own practice.

Who is it for?

Teachers, classroom assistants, tutors, lecturers, work-based learning providers: in short, everyone who wants to help people learn will benefit from this course. Thinking for Learning has proved particularly useful to schools and colleges focusing on:

- **Thinking and learning skills**
- **Productive habits of mind**
- **Student engagement**
- **Independent learning**
- **Curriculum for Excellence**
- **Creative curricula**
- **Enquiry-based learning**

What does it do?

The Thinking for Learning course introduces a range of tools and strategies together with a way of teaching that have been shown to produce the following effects:

Learners become more:

- motivated • involved • confident • responsible

Teachers, tutors and support staff become more:

- motivated • skilled • knowledgeable • enquiring

Lessons and workshops become more:

- inclusive • enjoyable • interactive • sociable

The curriculum becomes more:

- meaningful • coherent • relevant • enabling

Acclaim for the course

"There was a real buzz in the air after Ian's training.

Those who attended the course all felt re-energised and have enjoyed incorporating the new techniques into their lessons."

Jill Pettican, F.E. Professional Development Tutor

Course aims:

- to be relevant and helpful in all curriculum and vocational areas
- to be respectful of participants' expertise
- to be worthwhile, clear and enjoyable
- to clearly present the research that supports the Thinking for Learning approach
- to introduce a range of thinking tools, structures and strategies that will engage and support students in active, reflective learning
- to encourage professional enquiry into the value, practicality and results of using the Thinking for Learning approach
- to support teachers and tutors in making their contribution to curriculum development

Course content

Participants engage in a shared exploration into the nature and value of good thinking in relation to the process of effective learning in their subject or vocational area.

We ensure that the course is responsive to participants' particular needs and interests whilst maintaining its core content of:



- Thinking Tools, Thinking Skills and 'Thinking Lessons'
 - Collaborative Learning
 - Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning
 - Student Involvement in Assessment for Learning
 - Thinking in the curriculum
 - Learning to Learn
 - Teaching for metacognition and transfer
 - Exploratory Talk
- Facilitating Dialogue
 - Building a Culture of Thinking for Learning
 - Planning and Evaluating the use of Thinking for Learning strategies and tools

Course structure

The course consists of 10– 12 hours of taught time and encourages teachers to explore the application of their learning in their own practice.

The course structure can be adapted to needs and availability

- Two full days
- One full day and two half day sessions
- One full day and 3 twilight sessions

Each session includes the opportunity for colleagues to reflect on their current practice and introduces further teaching thinking strategies.

Between sessions participants are encouraged to plan and teach at least one lesson that involves the use of one of the tools or strategies introduced on the course.

They record this on a pro-forma Planning and Reflection Sheet provided.

Course Certification

Those who attend all course sessions and submit two successfully completed 'Planning & Reflection Sheets' gain our Newcastle University validated 'Reflective Engagement in Thinking for Learning' certificate.

For further information about availability and pricing contact us through our website at www.thinkwell.org.uk or by email to anne@thinkwell.org.uk