Curious Minds
Think and Learn
By Exploring the Unknown
The 13th International Conference on Thinking

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Title of Presentation:
‘Getting the Whole School Thinking’

Presentation Team:
Michael Griffiths, Headteacher
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Presentation:
We would like to provide a 60 minute Seminar with questions & answers

Target audience: Secondary School Headteachers, Teachers, Governors, Local Authority Education Departments, Academics involved with school research
GETTING THE WHOLE SCHOOL THINKING

The presentation will focus on the new innovations and initiatives Cardiff High School has developed since its Melbourne Conference presentation 2 years ago. Since that time the School's examination results have improved despite a more diverse School population, and the School attributes its continuous improvement to its learning and teaching and thinking skills initiatives. A Thinking for Learning course has been launched successfully, aimed at developing habits of mind that lead to students becoming resilient, independent learners, and promoting high level thinking, including information processing, reasoning enquiry, creative thinking, evaluation and reflection. Eliciting the views of students about their learning is given a high priority and is undertaken regularly by all teachers, while the School's Head of Research Development co-ordinates a plethora of classroom-based research. These research projects, partly funded by the GTCW (General Teaching Council for Wales), have led to teachers becoming more reflective practitioners, more willing to experiment with new teaching approaches. Research findings are shared with colleagues through the school's half-termly 'Learning Forum', which provides a valuable opportunity to engage in professional dialogue and discourse. Collaborative sharing of good practice is further enhanced through regular in-service training day workshops.

Headteacher biographical details

Michael Griffiths has been Headteacher of Cardiff High School, Wales since 1997. Before this he was Headteacher of Barry Comprehensive School, Wales from 1991 to 1997. His current school is undertaking a major 'thinking skills' initiative funded by two GTCW (General Teaching Council for Wales) grants. He and a range of colleagues have shared information about the work of the school at three earlier International Conferences on Thinking (Harrogate, UK, Phoenix, Arizona and Melbourne, Australia).