



WatsEducation Newsletter

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Useful Links:

watseducation.com/
 Consultancy, CPD, Projects,
 Resources and more.

watseducationideas.weebly.com/
 Inspirational videos and stories for
 class discussions and assemblies.

pledgeabook.com/
 Bringing the joy of reading to
 children who need it most

Contact Us:

www.watseducation.com
wats.ed.consultancy@gmail.com
 Twitter: @WatsEd

Welcome:

Congratulations (almost!)

July has arrived and that means another school year is coming to a close. Can you believe it? It has been a tough year for education and as always teachers have faced it with professionalism and are already preparing for next year. Hopefully you will find something interesting in this newsletter to inspire.

Hull Collaborative Academy Trust Conference 2016:

I am very excited to share this 'Early Bird' opportunity with you all.

The Hull Collaborative Academy Trust (HCAT) are holding their 1st conference on the 11th February 2016 at The Royal York Hotel, York.

Prices are £150 per delegate (including Lunch and refreshments)

The 1st Keynote Speakers published are:

Dr Paul Howard Jones (Neuro-Scientist) and Jonathan Lear – The Guerilla Teacher (@GuerillaEd)

Many workshops will also be available to delegates including:

Available workshops		
What works for white working class boys?	Are your children really learning skills for the future?	How do you ensure every member of staff apply your learning principles?
Can we really be creative within the new ofsted framework?	Is your continuous EYFS provision working for you?	How do we "lead" our leaders?

To book places either:

Contact - conferences@hcat.org.uk

Visit - www.watseducation.com/cpd-events

Outdoor Idea of the Month - July:

Play a Grass Trumpet!



A Rite of Passage!

Pick a blade of grass and hold it in between your thumbs like in this image from www.nwf.org.

Bring your thumbs up to your mouth and blow! You might need a bit of practice, but very soon you will be playing all sorts of tunes!

Can you play a tune your friends recognize?

Can you play louder or quieter?

Does the thickness of the grass make a difference to the sound?

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”
Nelson Mandela

Pledge a Book:

“Bringing the love of reading to children, one book at a time.”



Meet Percy Pledge.

Pledge-a-Book is a new UK charitable organisation who would like to distribute books to those children who live in households with few or no books.

The charity has been set up by a group of teachers, Rob Smith (Literacy Shed), Graham Andre (Mathematics Shed), Gaz Needle, Russ Brown, Beth Bennett and myself.

We know this is a real and wide spread problem, so we would like to do something about it and to do this we need your help!

There are 3 ways you can donate:

- 1) Send us a Book
- 2) Donate through PayPal
- 3) Purchase a book from our wish list

Anyone who donates will be featured on our 'Reading Heroes' page.

Your school could become a “Pigeon Post Partner”, like **Holcombe Brook Primary School, Bury**

It is really simple, just make a donation on behalf of your school.

Perhaps you could have a Non-Uniform Day where children have to bring in books as payment for wearing Non-Uniform. The school could keep a percentage and send the rest to us for us to send to those children who need them most. You could hold other fundraising events and make a monetary donation via our website.

All Pigeon Post Partner schools would be featured on our website, social media and newsletter.

We are now ready to receive Book Requests: <http://www.pledgeabook.com/request-a-book.html>

For more information, please visit www.pledgeabook.com or email: pledgeabook@gmail.com

Curiosity killed the cat, but...:

Full story can be found here: staffrm.io/@mikewatsed/jtZgGalDSx

I recently presented on this at Teach Meet in South Lincolnshire.



Do you have things to make children curious?

Sometimes I like to give children a 'thing' which I think will spark a little interest from the children.

When presented with a 'Curiosity', children's discussion can be very powerful indeed.

Towards the end of some work on Teeth, I showed the children (Y2) a Skull (it was a Sheep).

I asked them 1 question and 1 question only, the rest came from them.

My question: “**What is it?**”

The vocabulary they used, understood, shared and modelled together then led to some purposeful research, done both online and in the library just outside the classroom. The written and Art work that was produced was excellent and was scientific in nature and saw the children applying the language that had been used in discussion. They could then draw upon and apply knowledge and understanding and use it to build more.

Getting children to investigate and utilise their inherent curiosity is important, the guidance is important too.



Do you remember the Nature Table? Bring it back I say! Either that or a 'Curiosity Table'.

Something that could easily be changed for different themes and topics, gives the children time and opportunity to work out objects origins, uses, materials, ages etc.

They can question, practice and investigate. They can get it wrong and try again.

Sticks, tools, rocks, fossils, bones, egg shells, flowers, historical artefacts, nests, feathers, crops, various leaves...

Let's ask them those powerful questions, 'what is it?' and 'why?' instead!

I am currently updating my 'Cabinet of Curiosity'

If it is something you would like to see in your school please get in touch – I am prepared to take it 'On Tour'.

Consultancy Prices from July:

- ⇒ Most consultancy charged at £265 per day (on site)
- ⇒ £160 for a half day (on site)
- ⇒ £135 for a half day (from home)
- ⇒ £150 to prepare/lead staff training to work with children in an educational context (1 ½ hour session)

Visit: www.watseducation.com/consultancy

Have a great Summer and I'll see you in September!

Mike (@WatsEd)