



Excellence in Education
The Independent Association
of Prep Schools

Pre-prep & early years

The beginnings of learning: where the magic happens

Monday 26 April – Tuesday 27 April 2021

Annual Conference for pre-prep heads, early years and key stage one leaders



We all know how crucial those first few years of learning are for a young child. They need to be supported, challenged and inspired and have their key skills nurtured to help them to become life-long learners, who question and seek awe and wonder in the world around them. We support the very beginnings of learning and this really is 'where the magic happens'.

This conference will offer pre-prep and early years leaders an opportunity to hear inspirational educationalists who will challenge our thinking about all aspects of our education ethos and give us practical approaches to take away.

We will consider our unique place in an ever-changing market and how we can ensure quality early years and pre-prep provision in a child's educational journey. We will provide leaders with an opportunity to feel enthused and inspired to lead our schools effectively ensuring that the children have the very best start in life.

I look forward to welcoming you to this online conference.

Chris Wardle
Conference Director

Programme: Monday 26 April

1000	Conference opens and welcome
1010	The learning power approach: teaching learners to teach themselves – <i>Professor Guy Claxton</i>
1105	Product showcase
1130	Break
1145	The psychology of persuasive presentations – <i>Helen Morris Brown</i>
1245	Lunch
1330	The wow of learning through music and nature' including 'flow-based learning' – <i>Chris Holland</i>
1425	Product showcase
1445	Break
1500	What makes for meaningful and inspiring assemblies for early years and key stage one? – <i>Mary Thorne</i>
1600	District Meetings

Programme: Tuesday 27 April

0925	Conference opens
0930	Giving persuasive presentations – <i>Helen Morris Brown</i>
1025	Product showcase
1045	Break
1100	Science: sparking wonder and cultivating curiosity – <i>Dr Matt Pritchard</i>
1155	Product showcase
1215	Lunch
1300	Inspections – <i>Diane Gardiner</i>
1355	Product showcase
1415	Break
1430	Ideas and activities to generate questions, awe and wonder in science – <i>Dr Matt Pritchard</i>
1520	Conference closes

Sessions

The learning power approach: teaching learners to teach themselves - Professor Guy Claxton, *Cognitive scientist and author*

Everyone agrees that dispositions such as independence, resilience, collaboration, curiosity, and critical and creative thinking are valuable assets in the modern world. Yet very few schools are giving their pedagogy the makeover it needs to achieve these objectives, nor giving much thought to how the development of such traits can best be evidenced. Instead, there is much rhetoric, some largely ineffectual classroom decorations, and a continual, doomed search for the next magic bullet. The Learning Power Approach (LPA) assembles ground-breaking research and development initiatives from around the world into a coherent, practical road-map for teachers and schools - for when they are ready to get serious about evolving teaching that achieves great results by systematically building 'epistemic character'.

Inspections - Diane Gardiner, *reporting inspector and an early years lead inspector, ISI Consultancy*

A highly experienced ISI Reporting Inspector and EYFS specialist will help delegates learn how to prepare for an inspection and how to prepare their staff, so they know what to expect. The session will show delegates the current documentation that they will be required to use and how to use it effectively. During the session, delegates will learn how they can sell their setting and show the inspectors what they want to see; as well as understanding what the inspectors will be writing down, for example positive aspects.

The wow of learning through music and nature' including 'flow-based learning' - Chris Holland, *storyteller and nature connection facilitator*

British Playwright and Naturalist Eden Phillpotts is credited with the quote:
"The universe is full of magical things patiently waiting for our wits to grow sharper."

A fundamental part of our roles as educators is to help draw out the natural curiosity of our students and focus it on 'things' they are interested in.

Everything in the universe is vibration. Energy flows from one place or state to another.

Music is one way humans express that energy flow, and I believe that the patterns and rhythms in nature form an easily accessible source of infinite inspiration for encouraging learning for people of all ages, and also that the daily and yearly cycles in nature can inform and instruct our professional development in a helpful way.

Join Chris Holland, author of the 'must have' nature connection guidebook I LOVE MY WORLD and creator of the Natural Musicians (TM) activities for a light, informative and connective session that may just transform your delivery indoors and out with fun activities and a useful nature-based planning tool.

The psychology of persuasive presentations - Helen Morris Brown, *business psychologist*

Persuasion is like a magic trick: you can find yourself believing in something that you'd previously doubted or thought implausible. That's why effective salespeople are taught the art of influencing, so that they don't risk alienating their customers. Our experience of stereotypical salespeople encourages us to avoid behaving like them at all costs.

Thankfully, there is alternative approach. In this talk, Helen explains how to present to people in a way that leaves them feeling good about you and the product you offer, gives them confidence to trust you from the word 'go'. She will share insights into the way we process information and how that affects our choices, providing evidence to back up her claims. If you are a head teacher or public speaker who needs to reach governors or parents, this talk will give you the tips you need to master the art of persuasive presentations. You will have the opportunity to learn about the psychology of matching

expectations and about how chemicals in our brain affect our motivation and intent to favour certain products and stay loyal to brands.

You will leave this session knowing how to...

- Deliver persuasive presentations –
- Sell without 'selling'
- Gain the trust of your customers
- Create a feel-good factor each time you connect with someone else

And once you know all of that you can put it into practice whether you present to a live audience or whether you are communicating with people online.

Giving persuasive presentations - *Helen Morris Brown, business psychologist*

In this session, you will have the opportunity to put into practice some of the presentation tips Helen talked about in her keynote speech. Following a briefing and Q&A with Helen, everybody will have the chance to deliver a five-minute presentation in breakout groups. Once everyone has completed this, everyone will join a group discussion to reflect on the process and ask Helen additional questions. The seminar is designed to be interactive and will require active participation from everybody in the group. Instructions about the presentation exercise will be issued to participants who sign up for this seminar nearer the time.

Science: sparking wonder and cultivating curiosity - *Dr Matt Pritchard, Associate of the Inner Magic Circle*

Wonder is both the fuel and reward of curiosity. In this fast-paced keynote, packed with science tricks and curiosities, Dr Matt will be getting us to wonder about Wonder. What is the role of wonder in education? How can we cultivate environments that cultivate curious thinking? And how can we ensure we keep our own joy of discovery alive? Drawing from his own experiences as an educator, scientist, magician, and parent, plus extensive interviews with high performing individuals, Matt will be giving us lots to ponder. Plus, heaps of practical takeaways.

Ideas and activities to generate questions, awe and wonder in science - *Dr Matt Pritchard, Associate of the Inner Magic Circle*

This session is crammed full of practical investigations and demonstrations that have the wow factor; whether that's a counter-intuitive surprise or a beautiful example of science in action. None of the activities require any advanced science knowledge, specialist equipment or big budget to implement. Delegates be able to use them almost instantly. The activities are designed to pique pupils' interest and are a superb springboard for further investigations. Matt has 14 years' experience creating these science practicals and there will be time at the end of the session to quiz him further.

What makes for meaningful and inspiring assemblies for early years and key stage one? – *Mary Thorne, LDBS Primary Adviser with responsibility for RE*

The talk will focus on exploring a range of different strategies and approaches that can be used in schools to support and enable children to grow spiritually and flourish. We will explore together what it means for young children to engage, respond and reflect in a way that makes sense to them.

CANCELLATION If a delegate cancels his or her application up to and including 4 weeks prior to the date, a refund of 75% of the fee will be given. 50% of the fee will be refunded up to and including 2 weeks prior to the date. Thereafter, IAPS regrets that no refund can be made. **INSURANCE** IAPS regrets that it cannot accept liability for loss or damage however caused to the personal property of any person attending this or any other event organised under the auspices of the Association.

Book online at iaps.uk

IAPS 11 Waterloo Place, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV32 5LA

T: +44 (0)1926 887833 **E:** iaps@iaps.uk **W:** iaps.uk

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