**School Leaders’ Conference October 13th – 15th 2021**

**Devere Cranage Estate**

***The conference without a fancy title because it is all about making our learners happy and our settings the happiest places they can be…***

**We didn’t spend ages thinking up a clever title instead we’ve spent a good deal of time trying to bring together the right kind of speakers to make our conference memorable for all the right reasons.**

**After more than a year of the most unexpected and unbelievable challenges, not least the impact on mental health and emotional well-being, we aim to focus on our learners first before moving on to all of those with a responsibility for making our schools happy.**

**We aim for you to take away meaningful “nuggets” to impact positively within your schools and wider communities. This conference is about your Continuous Professional and Personal Development - CPPD - not another acronym!**

**A bit about our confirmed speakers.**

**\*David Hodgson**

A wonderfully entertaining and charismatic speaker, David cut his teeth working in careers in the North East of England and created a system that took the best of personality profiling and made it real and relevant for young people.

It is David’s ability to take complicated and challenging insights into human nature and achievement and make these principles accessible and understandable that is part of his personal effectiveness and popularity. That, and the fact that he also comes up with creative and straightforward strategies and approaches that allow all elements of the school community to use these new distinctions to good effect.

**\*Will Ryan**

In a world where we always seem to be chasing the next new shiny thing and educators are chasing the next silver bullet to shoot themselves in the foot with, we can overlook the immense power of wisdom to make a difference to our day-to-day lives.

Will Ryan, with his many years’ experience in all sorts of challenging schools as a teacher, headteacher and senior adviser, has wisdom in spades.

Will spent most of his teaching, leadership and advisory career working in what he refers to as the ‘People’s Republic of Rotherham’ but has an enviable overview of what makes great schools and great classrooms tick. For him it is about starting the job with a clear focus on what our moral purpose is, something that transcends SAT’s results or inspection reports.

**\*Nina Jackson**

Education is a world of very special people but you will meet few as extra special as Nina ‘Ninja’ Jackson.

Her work in the area of mental health and well-being has had an overwhelming impact on children, teachers and parents alike. She has rescued many who were on the brink of despair and given teachers the motivation to carry on when they nearly walked away from their careers.

When you hear her own personal story and all the amazing strategies she has employed to overcome the very worst experiences in life, you’ll then understand how she has managed to help so many people and why she is known as ‘The Ninja, who moves in mysterious ways’.

With a background in mainstream and special needs education and many years’ experience in schools as a pedagogical and pastoral champion, Nina has a breath-taking grasp of what makes classrooms - and all the people in them - tick.

**\*Dave Keeling**

As well as contributing to a number of our collaborative books for the Independent Thinking Press, Dave has also written *The Little Book of Laughter in the Classroom* detailing the many things we can learn from the worlds of stand-up and improv to help improve our teaching, as well as *A Rocket Up Your Class*, a book full of practical ideas to bring energy, humour and laughter to any classroom.

Apart from being six foot two and ginger (although, in his own words, ‘the flame is going out’ these days), what makes Dave stand out is the way in which he can cause people to change their attitudes, behaviours and habits when it comes to teaching, learning and leadership by simply being incredibly funny.

**\*Adrian Bethune**

Adrian is an experienced primary teacher and Healthy Body and Mind Leader at his school in Hertfordshire. He has been teaching happiness and well-being to primary school children since 2010.

He leads on mindfulness interventions and positive psychology courses for children through his organisation Teachappy.

\* taken from each speaker’s publicity material.

**Watch this space…**

Spring Term Conference March 23rd – 25th 2022 – save the date. Details to follow

Day Events January 2022

We are hoping to hold a series of one day events with visiting speakers to help us as School Leaders to fall back in love with learning. Details to follow.