

Professor Kieran Egan to visit the UK for one week and to host Workshop at Victoria Park Academy on 4th June 2013.

Cost: £100 including lunch and refreshments.

Proposed Outline for the Day

9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. "Engaging students' imaginations and emotions in learning."

This session will introduce some of the main principles of Imaginative Education (IE), offering a somewhat new way of thinking about the process of students' education. It focuses on the kinds of "cognitive tools" or learning toolkits students develop as they grow up in society. In schools, and in most currently dominant psychological theories of development, short-shrift is given to some of the most powerful learning tools students have available to make sense of their world and experience. We



tend to think of the imagination as something of an educational frill-- something to engage after the hard work of learning has occurred. **This workshop will show that the imagination is central to our learning and that ignoring it makes schooling less effective and more tedious for many children.** Theoretical dimensions will be paired with practical examples to indicate what **Imagination Education looks like in classroom settings with a focus on pre-school ages and early school years**, but will also include discussion of "cognitive tools" usable to about age 15. (See: www.ierg.net).

10:30 to 10:45: Break

10:45 to 12 noon. An interactive session showing how IE can work in participants' everyday practice. (Handouts will be provided.)

12 noon to 1:00 p.m. Lunch.

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1:00 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. "Learning in Depth: A simple innovation that can transform schooling."

This is a simple though radical innovation in curriculum and instruction designed to ensure that all students become experts about something during their school years. Each child is given a particular topic to learn about through her or his whole school career, in addition to the usual curriculum, and builds a personal portfolio on the topic. To the surprise of many, children usually take to the program with great enthusiasm, and quite soon **Learning In Depth** begins to transform their experience as learners. The program usually takes about an hour a week, with the students working outside school time increasingly. I will discuss the plausibility of this new program and try to account for its spectacular growth and students' enthusiasm for it. The potential implications of the program for students, teachers, and schools are profound and the students are very enthusiastic. The program has been successfully started with children as young as Casa and kindergarten ages.



2:15 to 2:25 p.m. Brief break.

2:25 to 3:30 p.m. "Imaginative Literacy program." This talk/discussion is intended to be both advocate, and be a guide to a new approach to teaching literacy. **What is new about the approach** is tied up with the ways it uses feelings and images, metaphors and jokes, rhyme and rhythm, stories and wonder, heroes and the exotic, hopes, fears, and passions, hobbies and collecting, and much else in engaging the imaginations and emotions of both teachers and learners with literacy. It draws on three sources: Vygotsky's ideas about the imagination and his developmental ideas; practices derived from a study of oral cultures; and the systematic study of imagination by the Imaginative Education Research Group. This session will offer a number of resources and tools useful for imaginative literacy teaching and learning. Also we will explore aspects of this new approach to planning a literacy lesson, and examine a number of examples of how it can help deliver more effective literacy instruction.



3.30p.m. Close

TO BOOK: Please contact the school on 0121 558 8701 and ask for Tony Batham, Business Manager or email headteacher@victoriaparkacademy.org.uk.

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