

Iona Towler-Evans: NATD Trustee

Iona has worked for over 30 years in schools in a range of contexts. Currently she:

- contributes to the training of teachers at Newman University College, Birmingham;
- runs the West Midland Mantle of the Expert Network (which she founded in 2007);
- teaches modules on the MA course on Mantle of the Expert;
- contributes to the use of Mantle of the Expert in her work with N.E.A.T young people (Not in Education and Training) in Swansea, West Wales.
- teaches Special Needs children through Mantle of the Expert as part of the Midland Actors Theatre programme directed by David Allen;
- and is on the board of the Midland Actors Theatre.

As part of the National Team on Mantle of the Expert, Iona has contributed to National Conferences in Essex, Newcastle, Norwich , Swansea, Abergavenny, Birmingham and London. She has also contributed to Mantle of the Expert modules at Manchester Metropolitan University, Birmingham City University, Carmarthen St David's University, Bishop Grosseteste University as well as at Newman University College.

As well as her work with developing teachers, she runs a range of school in-service training programmes and works closely with colleagues in the classroom. She has contributed to the training of teachers internationally both in Ireland and more recently in Jordan under the leadership of Luke Abbott.

Her previous posts include being a Head of Department and a Deputy head-teacher, in schools in challenging circumstances. She succeeded in transforming learning at such a school through the use of Mantle of the Expert and this was recognised by HMI (Her Majesty's Inspectorate). Prior to this she was a Curriculum Adviser at Dudley Local Education Authority for eight years where she worked closely with primary, special and secondary schools.

During her career, Iona has published widely. Notably:

- 'Sea Change', a programme of work with Somali children at Key Stage1 (Times Educational Supplement);
- Secondary English Magazine (an approach to text through Mantle of the Expert);
- and more recently a series of ten articles for Gifted and Talented Magazine on learning through Drama and Mantle of the Expert within primary, secondary and special needs contexts.

Her interests have always been in innovative approaches to learning. She has been engaged by the work of Dorothy Heathcote throughout her career and was supported by Dorothy when she first started researching Mantle of the Expert in 1993, following her Master's degree course.