

## **Luke Abbott: NATD Trustee**

Luke has had over 40 years of work in schools in a variety of roles. Until recently he worked in Essex as: a School Link Adviser; a Senior Curriculum Adviser for Learning and Teaching; and as a Lead Senior Adviser managing teams of advisers in a range of schools and settings. Luke currently manages the RNLC (Redbridge Networked Learning Community) with 8 strong networks researching and developing pedagogy. Building on years of experience with a vast variety of learners, he teaches and models practices with teachers and their learners in schools using Mantle of the Expert methods. Luke has many years of experience working with schools that are in decline to support their renovation, especially managing change in innovative classroom practices. He is the inventor and Director of the International Project: Mantle of the Expert. He works with many hundreds of teachers across Europe and trains trainers from all over the world. Working with Tim Taylor the website [www.mantleoftheexpert.com](http://www.mantleoftheexpert.com) has become an international centre of teaching expertise in e-format for many practitioners.

His previous posts were teaching in special, secondary and middle schools. He has also led and developed pedagogy and learning across innovative school centres, as well as teaching a nationwide Advanced Diploma for Teachers in all phases. He sat as the National Examiner Chair for the RSA Advanced diplomas for many years and also advised the Curriculum Advisory Panel in the Blair government for Creativity in Education. His work has extended to Jiangsu Province in China leading and tutoring an exchange programme for secondary and primary teachers in radical curriculum design.

His interests have always been in curriculum innovation and the art of teaching. In 1981-2 he trained with the great teacher-artist Dorothy Heathcote at Newcastle-upon-Tyne University for his Masters degree, maintaining a very close relationship with her for over 30 years honing the practices and details of Mantle of the Expert. He has deliberately used her pioneering systems and methods wherever possible.

Luke has taken up visiting posts at Northwestern University Chicago, Ohio State University and other higher education settings in the UK and US, leading and teaching on Drama, learning and teaching, management of change and developments in thinking processes. Since 2010 Luke has advised and worked with the Qattan Foundation in Ramallah, Palestine as a member of the International Science Development Board for furthering scientific education throughout the Occupied Territories. For the past two years he has also taught the final year programme at the Amman Summer Drama School. Luke leads the Drama for learning programme of the Qattan programme for Arts in Early Years Learning in Palestine which is currently in exchange with Richard Kieran's First school in Worcestershire.

Throughout his time in teaching and managing schools Luke has published widely in English, Mandarin and Arabic. His association with NATD extends back to its inception, publishing in The Journal over many years.