

Matthew Milburn NATD Trustee

Having trained with David Davis at Birmingham Polytechnic, Matthew began his career as a Drama teacher at Breeze Hill School in Oldham in 1988. He became Head of Drama in 1989 overseeing the introduction of A Level Theatre Studies as well as running a series of ambitious trips to northern France where pupils visited battlefields and performed in local schools. Since those early days in teaching, Matthew has been actively involved with NATD and was a member of the National Executive Committee between 1988 and 1992.

In 1992 Matthew was appointed as the Co-ordinator for Creative and Media Arts at a brand new Sixth Form College in Oldham. He went on to become a Student Manager at the College before being appointed as Assistant Principal in 1995. In its first twenty years, the college has had a transformational impact on the life chances of students in the town. In his time there, Matthew organised a number of regional NATD events, working with playwright Edward Bond and Director Warwick Dobson as well as opening up the college theatre as a venue for touring productions.

Matthew became Deputy Headteacher, Curriculum at Brigshaw School, Leeds in 1997 and stayed at the school for six years before taking up his first headship at Kingstone School in Barnsley. Kingstone was an 11-16 school with 1500 pupils on roll. The school gained Performing Arts Status and developed a drama based Key Stage 3 curriculum entitled "Cultural Studies." The course used many of the systems and techniques promoted by NATD. Dorothy Heathcote and Luke Abbott helped to shape several units of work. The school became one of a handful of secondary schools to be named as a School of Creativity in 2007; results improved, as did the outcomes from inspection reports. Matthew served a second term on the NATD Executive between 2002 and 2007 and a number of regional events were held at Kingstone during his period as Headteacher. The school also became the administrative hub for the Association.

In September 2011 Matthew took up his second headship, this time at Saddleworth School in Oldham. He linked up there with Debbie Kidd former colleague at Oldham Sixth Form College. Debbie led the development of a unique KS3 course entitled "English and Philosophy" which sees English, Drama, Religious Education and Personal, Health and Social Education (PSHE) being taught through a single context by a single teacher again using many of the systems and techniques so carefully nurtured by NATD.