

Supporting Challenging Learners Conference 2019

Session outlines

Thinking About Cognitive Load

Alex Frazer, River Tyne Academy Gateshead

The session will include a summary of the research on cognitive load, some strategies that can be used to optimise the load for learners and a variety of age and subject specific examples of how the strategies could be used in the classroom.

There will also be opportunities for delegates to reflect on current practice and future practice in their setting in relation to the research.

Reintegration and Transition for Learners who have been in Alternative Provision

Christina Jones, CEO, River Tees Multi-Academy Trust

What works to make reintegration and transition successful for learners from AP from the perspective of teachers, parents and young people? A review of tools to evaluate readiness, building a transition plan and effective partnership working with ongoing support, training and development.

Literacy Approaches with Challenging Older Learners: Evidence-Based Practice and Coaching in Practice

John Catron

The session will focus on action research and coaching as the means to engage challenging learners and enhance the professional autonomy of teachers. Practical examples from the current project at River Tees MAT will be used to exemplify the process and provide opportunities for active discussion and participation.

Introducing Childhood Trauma

Lynn Miles, Lecturer in Education, Teesside University

This session will present some 'types' of trauma, explain what they are, how they impact children's development and, as a consequence, their learning and behaviour.

Approaches to help trauma-affected children will be offered.

Staff wellbeing when working with challenging learners

Donna Walker, Head Teacher, The Link School

This session will be based around 'Promoting Emotional Well Being in School'. Donna will discuss the Link School's journey over the past 18 months and share practical strategies on what they have done to improve emotional wellbeing within this time and the impact that it has had on sickness absence and morale.

Developing the Curriculum for Challenging Learners

Rachel Campbell, Deputy Head Teacher, Bishopton Pupil Referral Unit

To discuss developing a curriculum for ALL.

A school is not a school without a strong curriculum. In this session, Rachel will look at how we can develop the curriculum for challenging learners to ensure that they have the opportunity to grow into adults, with the tools they need to compete in today education and employment market.

-Acknowledging that many learners have had difficult or negative experiences in the course of their education, but that doesn't mean they cannot achieve.

-Placing a strong focus within our curriculum on developing resilience, self-esteem and confidence.

-Developing our curriculum to incorporate both academic challenge and engagement for ALL.

How Mental Health impacts on behaviour – practical strategies

Steph Fenwick, Student Wellbeing Lead, River Tees Multi-Academy Trust

Steph will talk through the benefit of positive mental health and how this impacts upon the likelihood of challenging behaviour occurring. Steph is currently working at River Tees Multi-Academy Trust. This has given her an opportunity to support educators to further understand the benefits of implementing strategies to improve mental health and behaviour.