

Chair's Annual Conference Report

2020

Thank you for coming to our conference and for engaging so enthusiastically in it. The theme of 'ITE and beyond: the challenges for the current decade' was highly appropriate given the turmoil caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. The impact of this continues in our schools and our sincere thanks goes out to teachers everywhere for the outstanding work they do in continuing learning and the extra mile they have gone to support children and families.

This was also a first for our organisation in that our conference was on-line for the first time! A sign of the times too and a format that we will need to consider for future NaPTEC events. I would like to say a huge thank you to Ben Samuels for his excellent IT support leading up to and for the whole day of the conference and to Jo Barkham for her outstanding work in arranging the event. Thank you both. To Elaine, and Pinky and Robert for ably supporting our speakers and acting as 'buddies' for each.

I am delighted to say the 2020 conference was an enormous success. Enjoyable, thought-provoking and highly relevant with top quality presentations.

My sincere thanks to our speakers now.

To James Noble-Rogers. He paid tribute to the 'unsung heroes' who support teaching and learning in our schools and settings. Always so welcome to our conferences and his policy updates and big picture entirely relevant for teacher education. James spoke of the situation we find ourselves in with regard to school placements and the role of student teachers, and reminded us of the quality assurance procedures here. He updated on the positive picture of recruitment in ITT and the visit arrangements in the new Ofsted Framework in 2020/1 and beyond. New opportunities are presented in the Early Career Framework which is very positive to add much needed support for new teachers entering the profession.

Prof. Sam Twistleton shared her fascinating research working with Primary teachers and identified three types of teacher: Task Managers, Curriculum Developers and Skill/Concept Builders. This very research informed presentation resonates with us all as teacher educators in helping emergent teachers to recognise their own and often default teaching style and to aim to become skills builders who promote learning. Sam's presentation was brought right up to date with key reviews from Carter onwards and the emergence of new and exciting CPD and career pathways for teacher development, including 'Leading Teacher Developer'.

In the afternoon Dr. Deborah Pope treated us to her superb research on Primary teachers' subject knowledge with an engaging title that sought to re-orientate subject knowledge in

ITE. Her presentation led us to the roles and lived experiences of mentors in schools and the area of partnership working. In respect of the challenge for schools, she called for 'creative responses' and the need to articulate clearly what subject knowledge is in Primary teaching.

Our final speaker is no stranger to NaPTEC and a valued and staunch supporter for many years. Dr. Tony Eade, with reference to the other speakers during the day, posed three pivotal questions for us: What is education for? What does being a teacher entail? and What does being a teacher educator entail? His erudite summation of the current challenges facing the the world of education on a grand scale ended with hopes for the future for the profession and new opportunities that lie ahead.

With such a positive note to end on in these current difficult times, we are indeed left with much hope for the future and for education.

Dr. Jonathan Doherty

Chair NaPTEC.