**Developing pupil independence: Promoting critical thinking and learner autonomy across your school.**

**Support Pupils To Think More Deeply Into Lesson Content**

● Encourage students to ‘dig deeper’ into a topic's meaning.

● Turn critical thinking into a habit for students.

● Use higher-order thinking research literature.

● Critical thinking is a crucial skill for students in the 21st century.

● Engage your students at a higher level.

**Significance of Higher-Order Thinking Skills (HOTS)**

It's a great feeling when you witness your students ‘thinking effectively’, and the INSET workshop helps make the thinking process visible. INSET's core principle enables you to see when thinking is taking place, putting you in a position to support it.

The workshop brings together strategies, developing them into meaningful learning sequences that can be applied universally. It is designed for those schools that are creating a 'culture of thinking.'

In addition to classroom techniques and strategies, INSET helps determine how you can embed this culture into your institution. You will discover the rationale behind critical thinking and why it is an essential student skill. This discovery starts by looking at the educational development of children.

**INSET - Course Overview**

**Why is critical thinking crucial to learning?**

* Importance of higher-order thinking.
* Benefits of thinking better.
* The research behind higher-order thinking.
* Making cognitive science more accessible to students and teachers.

The benefits to younger students may be clear, but what does it mean for those in higher education and the workplace? Policymakers and organisations such as the OECD and the CBI are giving this topic considerable attention. INSET helps you to communicate the importance of this topic and engage with colleagues and parents.

**What is critical thinking, and how to facilitate it?**

* Understand the cognitive barriers blocking critical thinking.
* Increasing HOTS opportunities.
* Cognition, and our current thinking frameworks.

Critical thinking is often referred to as a skill we want to encourage, accelerate, or facilitate. One argument suggests that everyone is predisposed to critical thinking, but instructional and environmental factors stifle it. This section of the course delves into the cognitive science behind critical thinking and the importance of being conscious of it.

**What strategies can facilitate critical thinking?**

Most of the workshop is practical, focusing on how thinking can be taught. Participants are encouraged to consider how each strategy can be developed into practical and engaging activities. Strategies include the following:

* Visualising thinking.
* Higher-Order Questioning.
* Collaborative Problem Solving.
* Reasoning.
* Digital tools for critical thinking.

**How to identify critical thinking?**

There is growing consensus about what critical thinking looks like and how you will recognise it. You will discover frameworks for helping you identify critical thinking and make judgments in the classroom.

* What behaviours and language will you notice with higher-order thinking?
* How can you start to move a whole school toward critical thinking practices?
* How can we encourage learners to discuss how they think?