

Case studies on NAU

St Andrews – Our Outdoor Spaces cont.

Mel Curtis, Principal

“We come into this profession to make a difference for children – to make a deep difference we have to organise learning differently.”



Mel Curtis
Principal, British International School Chicago, Lincoln Park

Our Invitation

We would love to welcome colleagues from other Nord Anglia Education schools to join us on Friday 13th and Saturday 14th November to participate in some workshops but also share some of the excellent practice that happens in their schools.

The cost of the Workshop and Seminars will be 3,500 baht (just over 60 GBP), and that is to cover the cost of food and transport to and from the recommended hotel. We will of course organise optional socials. For those of you who don't know Bangkok and St Andrews, our school is less than a kilometre from the main Sukhumvit Road that leads into the city but is itself in a quiet suburb. The recommended hotel is 1km away from school, next to a Skytrain station. The Skytrain will have you at all the tourist spots within 10 minutes but there is enough to do in the local area should you prefer to stay out of the Centre. Once people have registered their interest with me I will send out more details of the suggested programme and other practical information.

Learning without limits within a thinking School

What a way to start the new school year – we were fortunate to have Dame Alison Peacock with us over 2 days as part of our whole school professional development and orientation week in August.

Alison is the Executive Headteacher of The Wroxham Transformative Learning Alliance and Headteacher of the Wroxham School in Hertfordshire where she has successfully developed the concept of learning without limitless potential.

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A culture and approach which is based on trust, the right conditions and support, where colleagues are stimulated to do their own thinking. A culture where staff take pride in their own and each other's capacity to learn, and to treat this as integral to their professional identity.

Over the 2 days we worked together on

- Circle group meetings
- Learning review meetings
- Enlivening learning
- Open-ended curriculum experiences and making connections
- Engaging children in assessing their own learning
- Challenges and not levels
- The importance of empathy
- Putting learning first
- How fixed ability thinking can limit learning

Over the next 12 months we will develop these concepts further as part of the whole school learning journey and welcome Dame Alison back to our school in the summer term to celebrate our successes.

We've also made a [case study](#) of this project and will update you later on in the year on how it goes.