



Specialist Schools
and Academies Trust
EXCELLENCE AND DIVERSITY

The work of the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust

**Sue Williamson, Director of Leadership and
Innovation**

Kai Vacher, Head of Innovations

Tony Bloxham, Head of iNet Global

Emma Sims, Development & Research Coordinator

Claire Mathews, Head of Leadership Development





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Main areas of work

- Achieving a specialist system by 2008
- Raising Achievement, Transforming Learning
- Leadership
- Affiliation – world's largest network of schools:
 - 2627 Secondary
 - 100 Primary
 - 159 Special





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Specialist Schools

- We currently have 2502 specialist schools in ten specialisms:
 - 408 Arts
 - 218 Business & Enterprise
 - 47 Engineering
 - 72 Humanities
 - 216 Languages
 - 222 Maths & Computing
 - 18 Music
 - 345 Science
 - 282 Sport
 - 583 Technology
- 14 City Technology Colleges
- 27 Academies





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Mission Statement of the Trust:

The Specialist Schools and Academies Trust works to give practical support to the transformation of secondary education in England by building and enabling a world class network of innovative, high performing secondary schools in partnership with business and the wider community.





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Core Principles of the Trust

“By schools – for schools”

Two Examples:

- Personalising Learning
- Leadership programme



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Personalising Learning: the journey so far

Kai Vacher, Head of Innovation
22nd June 2006





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Personalised learning demands that every aspect of teaching and support is designed around a pupil's needs...

David Miliband, Minister for School Standards, September 2003

So what's new in this?

**PL means meeting more of the needs
of more of the students
more fully than in the past**





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Affiliated Schools

- 2953 secondary schools in England
- 98 primary schools in England
- 153 special schools in England
- 31 affiliated local authorities in England





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Affiliation Networks

- Schools pay an annual subscription to affiliate
- Eleven regions. Each region has a steering group consisting of headteachers and other senior school leaders
- National Headteachers Steering Group
- National Conference for schools affiliated to the Trust





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iNet

- International networking for Educational Transformation
- 357 schools affiliated
- Networks in Australia, Chile, Hong Kong, South Africa
- Networks being established in China, Northern Ireland, USA, Mauritius, Wales, Netherlands, Sweden and New Zealand





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iNet's Mission

'The mission of International Networking for Educational Transformation (iNet) is to create **powerful and innovative networks of schools** that have achieved or have committed themselves to achieving **systematic, significant and sustained change** that ensures **outstanding outcomes for all students** in all settings.'





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iNet aims to:

- **Support and develop** an international ethos of co-operation and development
- **Network** people who are committed to **innovation and transformation** of schools
- Provide opportunities for students to develop as **global citizens**
- **Exchange** people and ideas to ensure understanding of the global education community





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iNet aims to:

- Exploit the **new and emerging technologies** to develop new ways of communicating and sharing knowledge
- Bring together practitioners and the world's leading academics to develop **innovative thinking and practice**
- Enable and support schools in their **educational transformation**
- Support the transition from the 19th to the 21st century **educational imaginary**





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iNet's Objectives

- Networking innovation
- Leadership Development
- Development and Research
- Student Voice
- Networking people and knowledge through conferences, workshops and publications
- New technologies





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Tony Blair Technology Colleges Trust National Conference November 2003



'...individual schools and the system at large must cater better for the talents and needs of each individual pupil.'





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David Miliband, Specialist Schools Trust National Conference, November 2003



'A new generation of self confident, independent students is of course a challenge. It is also an opportunity to improve the education system by tailoring teaching and learning to individual need and developing students as more active partners in effective learning.'





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The Challenge

- 5 workshops with 200+ school leaders led by Professor David Hargreaves
- Conclusion: nine inter-connected gateways for personalising learning





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The Nine Gateways





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The six Core Themes that emerged

- **Responsibility** for one's learning & behaviour
- **Confidence** in oneself as a learner
- **Engagement** with learning & the school
- **Maturity** in relationships with staff and peers - more open and honest, with greater mutual respect
- **Independence** in, and control over, one's learning
- **Co-construction** of design & delivery of education: teaching, learning, curriculum, assessment, school life

	SV	AfL	L2L	NT	Cur	A&G	M&C	WR
Eng	high			high	high			
Res		high	high					
Ind			high	high				high
Con	high						high	
Mat						high	high	high
Co-	high	high			high			

Clusters of gateways...



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SV + AfL + L2L = DEEP LEARNING



curriculum+new techs = DEEP EXPERIENCE



**advice& guidance + mentoring & coaching
= DEEP SUPPORT**



**school design & organisation + workforce
= DEEP LEADERSHIP**



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DEEP LEADERSHIP
driven by SLT

DEEP EXPERIENCE
at system level

DEEP SUPPORT
at system level

DEEP LEARNING
at classroom level



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PL as a professional journey

- **1. The workshops with 250 school leaders**
- **2. The creation of the nine gateways**
- **3. The five national conferences**
- **4. The six pamphlets**
- **5. The meaning of personalisation**
- **6. The clustering of the gateways**
- **7. Development and Research Networks**