

InTuition

Supporting the CPD of teachers and trainers in the further education and skills sector



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Message from the chief executive

A very happy new year; I hope that 2010 is a positive and productive year for you all.

We are off to a very promising start with news of an assessment-only route to Qualified Teacher Status (QTS), for FE teachers who want to work in schools as qualified teachers. IfL is working hard to achieve mutual recognition for Qualified Teacher Learning and Skills (QTLS) and QTS; you can read more on [page 8](#).

Congratulations to our members who successfully achieved QTLS or ATLS (Associate Teacher Learning and Skills) in the autumn, recognised at a ceremony led by Sir Mike Tomlinson CBE (former chief inspector of schools) on 28 January 2010. If you haven't already gained QTLS or ATLS, which gives teachers and trainers the professional status you deserve, I encourage you to visit www.ifl.ac.uk/qtls-atls

In our 2009 member survey, many of you said that *InTuition* and other IfL publications inspire you with ideas for your professional practice and continuing professional development (CPD). We are developing a series of themed issues of *InTuition* to provide resources useful to your professional development.

This edition focuses on technology: items updating you on new technology for your professional practice; useful tips and resources; and members' experiences.

IfL's research shows that 60 per cent of you feel confident with new technologies and over a half use video, digital technology or interactive tools in your teaching and training. About a third are not confident, however, which calls for further familiarisation and training in the use and benefits of new technologies, particularly those appropriate for your subject areas. Promoting technological skills remains an important priority for IfL, and we know that most teachers and trainers have a strong desire for this.

We hope the resources in this edition and on our website are useful. Please share your experiences, tips and ideas through our website, or our Facebook or Twitter pages, or email chiefexec@ifl.ac.uk

Reading *InTuition* and making use of what you read for your practice is one of many CPD activities ([2008-09 IfL review of CPD](#)). In 2008-09, 98 per cent of teachers and trainers who declared their CPD had exceeded the minimum number of hours, which shows an impressive commitment to progressing your practice and professionalism. (See [page 4](#)).

Elections for the new IfL Advisory Council were held in late 2009 and the first meeting in January 2010. The new structure, with 45 elected members (see [page 11](#); and for all Advisory Council members: www.ifl.ac.uk/governance), gives teachers and trainers greater representation than before, and is better shaped for developing policy and deciding IfL's strategic direction.

Education and skills will be a key electoral issue this year. IfL invited senior politicians from the three major parties to share their wishes for further education and skills (see www.ifl.ac.uk/wishlist). IfL will continue to raise the profile of teachers and trainers and, importantly, provide a national voice for members leading up to the general election and afterwards.

Toni Fazaeli
Chief Executive



My life transformed

by further education teachers

Anthony Spelman



I am 67 years old;
this is my story.

I was a shy child, unable to do well, failing my 11-plus exams and leaving school with no self-confidence. I was a coach driver and then a taxi driver for 40 years.

I was ill from long, horrible bouts of depression and I convinced myself I was lazy, and not a very good person. Being self-employed, taking so much time off work played havoc with my finances. I felt desperate. My doctor placed me on a stress management course, where I met Eddie.

Eddie left school unable to read or write. He was a labourer but learned to read, became an apprentice electrician and gained Open University qualifications. In time he had his own department and staff, so he taught himself computer skills. I mentioned that I liked computers, but couldn't afford one. He gave me one he didn't use, and taught me how to use it. I was well and truly hooked. In the meantime, I was diagnosed with Tourette's syndrome.

One day, walking past the Lifelong Learning Centre, I inexplicably went in and forgetting for the moment all my self-doubts and anxieties, signed up for a beginner's computer course. I was very nervous, but I found that I knew answers to the other students' questions, which boosted my self-confidence. I passed, and received something I never had before – a certificate. My thanks go to those teachers.



While taking the NVQ2 computer course, my tutor, Joanne Rossler, and the IT manager, Catherine Irwin who helped me so much, asked if I'd like to be put forward for a national award. To be regarded as eligible... my head was spinning. At a ceremony in 2008, NIACE awarded me the Senior Learner Award Winner title.

At a coffee break, an Age Concern flyer, inviting anyone with computer skills to volunteer for a Life Story project, looked exciting. With my new-found confidence, I applied. On the first day my trainer, Dianne Pullen, commented on how quickly I got the hang of it, and my self-confidence soared. I made great friends with other volunteers, and was asked to talk about the project in front of the Lord Mayor of Manchester and 200 guests. I plucked up the courage, and did it.

I also became involved with Forum4Age (ensuring information for elderly and disabled people reaches them).

I also have certificates from the Oldham User committee for IT and for ITQ2 and took a European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL) course, asking myself: '... at 66, why bother?' I was delighted when I passed.

I listened to many people's own Mount Everest stories at award ceremonies, and wanted to help them spread their story. I built a website, and with their permission, published their stories to encourage others in similar predicaments to try further education, to change their lives.

When I walked into that Lifelong Learning Centre, I couldn't know how wonderfully my life would change and the tremendous impact the teachers would have on my self-esteem and well-being. I've met so many magnificent, caring people. I am no Einstein or Hawkins. I am just me, but a different me. I no longer say 'No, I can't' but 'Let's try and see what I can do.' That's why I have a passion for education.



Visit Anthony Spelman's site:
www.thepreciousgiftofknowledge.com

Your CPD in focus

IfL's first annual continuing professional development (CPD) review shows that 98 per cent of members declaring their CPD completed more than the required number of hours.

2008–09 is the first full year in which you, as IfL members, have been asked to share your CPD with your professional body. This review process shares CPD teaching and training practice. It considers its impact on your own practice, learners and employers, and also:

- highlights effective CPD in updating both subject and professional knowledge and in teaching and training methods
- describes CPD that makes a difference to practice and learners
- defines aspects of effective leadership through the CPD process
- identifies further areas to ensure all teachers and trainers lead the way in their teaching methods and vocational and subject areas – for effective dual professionalism.

This review includes useful resources to improve your future CPD:

- recommendations and tips for teachers and trainers, with a personal CPD cycle
- a suggested CPD calendar; the self-declaration period may run from June to August, but there is a great deal you can do to stay on track through the year
- a list of effective CPD activities.

For more information on last year's CPD and ideas for 2010, see the [2008-09 IfL review of CPD](#): www.ifl.ac.uk/cpd

Andrew McIntyre MifL

CPD activities can be wide-ranging. Andrew McIntyre, an art teacher at Telford College of Arts and Technology, appeared on the fourth plinth in Trafalgar Square as part of Antony Gormley's project. 'It was life-changing; I have been able to share my experience with a wide audience. I was filmed as part of the live stream on the internet, and I will incorporate this footage into my teaching. It's now part of my CPD.'

Nick Marshall MifL

teaches in an education department at the Dover Immigration Removal Centre. He became an IfL Volunteer Connection and as part of his CPD learned how to use REfLECT Mobile. The usefulness was immediate for his teaching and he showed colleagues how to use REfLECT Mobile to speed up data entry on their reflective logs. 'I hope to get the teachers to add their activity as soon as they have finished their training or development activity.'

Toni Fowles MifL, QTLS

is a literacy teacher at Azure, a voluntary sector LSC-funded training organisation. She was worried about declaring her CPD, but her employer and line manager were very supportive. She worked closely with a colleague and this experience has encouraged her to apply for QTLS. She and her colleague are working on the QTLS webfolio. 'Definitely use REfLECT, as you can access it easily and there is loads of help that takes you through it step-by-step.'



Photo courtesy of Warwickshire College and Rolls-Royce



Boost your e-confidence

Working in partnership with Becta

Technology is the present and the future. IfL's priority to our members is to support you to get the most from new technologies and to enhance your continuing professional development (CPD) opportunities.

Over 85,000 of our members already use REfLECT as a way to plan, review and record their CPD. We want to make it more user-friendly and accessible for you.

We have already listened to our members and recently produced an introductory resource; *It's your career, it's your story, it's your REfLECT* and soon will release an online film that takes you on a step-by-step guide to getting started.

New developments

New REfLECT features include:

- the ability to build your Professional Formation webfolio when applying for Qualified Teacher Learning and Skills (QTLS) or Associate Teacher Learning and Skills (ATLS)
- improvements to help you record your CPD in a way that works for you

- coming soon, integration with Moodle (a course management system) to enable sharing of assets between both systems.

Project with Becta

We are working on a project in partnership with Becta, which will help you to further develop skills in using new technologies and REfLECT. IfL and Becta want to help increase your confidence in using technology in teaching and learning and in reflective practice, improving the quality of your CPD.

You can have your say by answering a few simple questions on your experience of REfLECT. Please contact the REfLECT helpline, 0844 858 9312, or email your name and phone number to becta.project@ifl.ac.uk

Tips to help you

You can access a range of online resources to support your CPD on IfL's website, from help with using REfLECT effectively, to a range of tools, tips and links developed specifically for teachers and trainers.

Haven't tried REfLECT?

Haven't tried REfLECT? Why not log in, explore and see what works for you. It is available online and can be accessed through many mobile devices.

REfLECT is easy to use and is an efficient and rewarding way to record and plan your CPD. It saves files and documents and enables idea sharing and portfolio compilation for QTLS or ATLS applications.

Visit: www.ifl.ac.uk/reflect

Top technology tips



Move On resources

This contains information and resources for the promotion, engagement and delivery of numeracy and English literacy training and now offers you a new resource, Moneymatterstone.

Visit: www.move-on.org.uk

In this technology-themed edition, we bring you some top tips for ICT resources for your teaching and training.

RefLECT

This online personal learning space for members enables you to plan, record and assess the impact of CPD on your practice. It can be accessed at any time, anywhere, from your PC, laptop or mobile device. More information: www.ifl.ac.uk/reflect



twitter

Twitter

Follow IfL on Twitter for regular updates and to access resources and links shared by other members.

Visit: www.twitter.com and search for "IfL_members".

Chips with everything

This newsletter, funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and produced by NIACE's ICT and Learning team, provides updates on the programme to develop the use of e-learning in adult learning. It includes news on funding streams, information on e-learning projects and future plans for this area. Visit www.excellencegateway.org.uk/chips



The Whiteboard Blog

This is a good resource for interactive technology in the classroom and includes training videos, help-sheets, blogs, tips, and much more. Visit www.whiteboardblog.co.uk



Edmodo

This private social platform enables teachers and learners to share ideas, files, events and assignments: www.edmodo.com



LSIS' Excellence Gateway

This online service is for those employed in the post-16 learning and skills sector in England. Driven by its quality improvement standards, the Excellence Gateway offers you an unrivalled breadth of resource, support, advice and opportunities to participate in and share good practice. Visit www.excellencegateway.org.uk



We thank Alice Sharples, MifL, for providing some useful tips.

Find more resources at: www.ifl.ac.uk/technologytips

Please send us your top tips so that we may share with other members.

Email: communications@ifl.ac.uk

Textbooks or iPods?

Dr Peter Jepson



“ I teach law in FE. Three years ago I argued that you don't learn much from iPods but you learn a great deal from textbooks. I was not particularly a Luddite because a year before that, I developed LawsBlog.

LawsBlog

The site is a students' online repository for syllabuses, lesson materials and direction to required textbook reading so that they can précis materials ahead of class. I included key lecture podcasts of real-time class sessions and pre-recorded content, and developed an online essay competition so students can see the quality of work produced by fellow students and use such materials for revision. I have also developed a 'gifted and talented section' to enhance learning for students aiming for high grades and a mentoring scheme for those needing more support.

Not just students

Students use it daily to access homework details, teachers' informal advice and learning programme announcements; and their parents use it for course activity updates. Students from other institutions are accessing it while teachers at other colleges now use the materials in their own teaching; I ask for a small donation to the Royal Society for the Blind as a goodwill gesture.

iPod touch

Despite earlier scepticism, I've facilitated lesson material and podcast downloading from LawsBlog

though iTunes to iPod touch as part of a broader educational scheme. We encourage students to stretch their learning by accessing Oxford and Harvard lectures in this way. Students are very enthusiastic and create their own podcasts and other teaching staff now podcast their own lessons.

iMindmapping

We use this to enhance ways students plan essays and work, and there has been some progress, but better use will be made when there is software to access it on iPhone or iPod touch.

Future study

We will soon see standard textbooks delivered as e-books through iPhone, Smartphone, iPod, pc, ebook readers and the iPad. My students buy their textbooks through a LawsBlog hyperlink now, but in future, hyperlinks will connect them to the required reading, online.

I shall now have to argue that we may soon replace the textbook with an iPod!



Dr Peter Jepson, Head of the Department of Laws, Strode's College, Surrey:

www.lawsblog.co.uk

2010 membership renewal

Online renewal is available from March and you will receive an email reminder soon. It's easy and quick to complete; all you need is your login and password for the IfL website: www.ifl.ac.uk

The 2009 Member Survey shows that 92 per cent of respondents value the benefits of IfL membership. You can find out more about the benefits of IfL membership, including resources and special offers: www.ifl.ac.uk/benefits

To be sent a reminder of your login details, visit www.ifl.ac.uk/reminder

Status equivalence FE and skills teachers and trainers with school teachers

Update

IfL knows that members are keen for Qualified Teacher Learning and Skills (QTLS) status, conferred by IfL, to be accorded mutual recognition with Qualified Teacher Status (QTS), the professional status for schoolteachers.

The Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) recently published a report on the outcome of its consultation regarding the assessment-only route to QTS. IfL had responded to the consultation in autumn 2009, and the TDA's report specifically mentions IfL's recommendation that those carrying out assessments for FE teachers should be sufficiently knowledgeable about the vocational or subject area and the FE context to make judgements.

IfL had also suggested that the degree requirement should be extended to include recognition

of vocational qualifications and relevant experience; for example, for those in the FE sector who have successfully taught for many years without having gained an undergraduate degree or equivalent qualification. In its consultation report, however, the TDA reiterated that school teaching was a graduate profession.

IfL will be working with the TDA and the Universities Council for the Education of Teachers (UCET) to ensure that assessor providers have the relevant expertise and suitable knowledge of the FE and skills sector.

We are also starting to work with several universities to explore ways for FE teachers with DTLLS and QTLS to gain advanced standing towards a degree. This could include elements at master's level for those who are interested.

We will update you regularly in our member newsletters on progress with a principal strategic priority – to help raise the status of teachers and trainers.

See IfL's *Five-year strategy 2009-2014* for more information on IfL's priorities for members.

TDA's report on the outcome of the consultation published in January 2010

Notes

- Qualified Teacher Learning and Skills (QTLS) is the professional status for teachers and trainers in the further education and skills sector, achieved through the [Professional Formation](#) process.
- Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) is the accreditation that enables teachers to work as qualified teachers in state-maintained and special schools in England and Wales.
- The Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) is the national agency and recognised sector body responsible for the training and development of school staff and sets QTS standards.
- Universities Council for the Education of Teachers (UCET) is the representative body for universities involved in teacher education and education research.
- Diploma in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector (DTLLS) is the highest qualification in the suite of Initial Teacher Training (ITT) courses for teachers and trainers in the FE sector.



Digital age teaching

NIACE working in partnership with IfL

Countless reports and government strategies in recent years have highlighted the importance of technology development and use in teaching and learning. Various initiatives and the minimum core requirement for ICT2 will affect staff development; improving teaching staff's knowledge and skills drives quality improvement with highly beneficial outcomes for learners.

It appears that while many organisations have ICT facilities, e-learning progresses only when staff become competent users and embody the technology in their teaching practice, and sometimes only with senior managers' support. NIACE's E-Guides eCPD training programme (on behalf of LSIS, the Learning and Skills Improvement Service) responds to this by providing teachers with pedagogical and technical skills to support colleagues.

However, because of current financial restraints, providers find it increasingly difficult to release teachers for CPD activity. This requires an alternative approach to face-to-face activity, such as harnessing technology. Distance learning is not new, but modern technology makes it more interactive and presents a number of good options: learning platforms such as Moodle and forums for learning communities to share activities, knowledge and practices.

2010 needs a mix of approaches

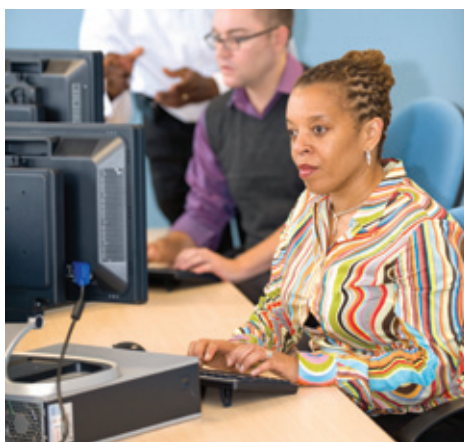
We begin 2010 with a need for a mix of approaches to delivery and support for e-learning CPD. By giving teachers the e-skills, tools and strategies to deliver e-learning successfully, they will be able to apply technology to classroom learning and make learning more stimulating, enjoyable and effective.

Alternatively, virtual classrooms such as Instant Presenter or Dimdim deliver real-time learning sessions, a model NIACE used to deliver CPD sessions for different projects. For example, virtual classroom and online interactive materials are combined for day two of the E-Guides programme, which reaped resoundingly positive participant feedback. This new, innovative approach enables teachers to access learning from a distance and benefit from direct trainer support. It is an approach that merits further research and development.

For further information from NIACE visit www.niace.org.uk

As fast as technology evolves

Teachers will need to keep abreast with fast evolving technology, reflecting on their skills and teaching knowledge, albeit within the constraints in their organisations.



Technology discounts for IfL members

Member benefits

IfL has secured a number of discounts to support you in your teaching using technology.

Software discounts with Teacher Expressware



Save 40 to 90 per cent on branded software from Microsoft, Adobe, Quark, Nuance, Mindjet, AVG and more.

These products are full versions and are not scaled down for teacher purposes.

Example pricing for software:

PRODUCT	PRICE	SAVING
Windows 7 Professional Upgrade (32 bit) Teacher	£62.99	67%
Microsoft Office Professional Plus, includes the 2007 versions of Publisher, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, Access, Word	£69.99	80%
Photoshop Elements 8.0 Teacher Windows	£46.99	39%
QuarkXPress 8 – print, web, and Flash authoring tools	£99.00	89%
AVG Internet Security 9.0 – 1 year PC teacher special	£15.99	62%
Mindjet MindManager 8 Teacher	£57.58	75%

Hardware discounts and special offers



Online Apple store

IfL members' dedicated online store gives you 10 to 13 per cent discount on selected

Apple products,

including MacBooks, and other special offers.

Dell discount

IfL members can now take advantage of the Dell Employee Purchase Program (EPP), offering you up to 10 per cent discount on Dell consumer products, including Inspiron PCs, laptops and software.

We want to expand the range of third-party special offers and discounts for members and for these to reflect your needs. If there are offers (ICT-related and others) that would benefit your professional practice, please email suggestions@ifl.ac.uk

For more information, log into the members' area: www.ifl.ac.uk/login

Prices and discounts correct January 2010.



Governance update

Congratulations to these 33 newly elected IfL Advisory Council members.

(More information available online).

RESERVED SEAT	NAME
Age	Zaeem Mohammad Zaman MifL
Black & Ethnic Minority	Lisette D’Cruz MifL, QTLS
Disability	Marianne Beamish MifL
Gender	Ms Beatrix E Groves MifL
Sexuality	No candidate
Adult and Community Learning	Karen Gray MifL, QTLS
FE Colleges	Dave Bains MifL
Ministry of Defence	Douglas Dummett MifL
Offender Learning	Lynne Western-Lait MifL
Sixth Form Colleges	Govind Bharadia MifL
Work-based Learning	Stella Austin MifL, QTLS
East Midlands	Andre Verwijns MifL
East of England	Alan Kemp MifL
Greater London	M Ade Lawal MifL
North East England	Margot Cambridge MifL
North West England	Angie McConnell MifL
South East England	Nigel Beckford MifL
South West England	Caroline Huntley MifL
West Midlands	Tony Armstrong FifL
Yorkshire and the Humber	Phil Hodgkinson MifL
Member representative	Mary Bennett FifL
Member representative	Anne Brookes MifL
Member representative	Sue Broster MifL
Member representative	April Carrol MifL
Member representative	Dick Cervantes MifL
Member representative	Stuart Emmerson MifL
Member representative	Jan Hanson MifL, QTLS
Member representative	Melanie Jones MifL
Member representative	Fiona Joy MifL
Member representative	Sue Lloyd MifL
Member representative	Rosalind Pearson FifL, QTLS
Member representative	Sarah Louise Pigott AfifL
Member representative	Sue Rhodes MifL, QTLS
Member representative	Ed Sallis FifL

IfL Advisory Council, 2010

For further details of the Advisory Council and an explanation of the new IfL governance structure:
www.ifl.ac.uk/governance

Involve yourself!

Written contributions and photographs



We hope you enjoyed our technology theme. Our next issue focuses on continuing professional development; the process, what's involved and benefits. Please send us your articles for our website or publications, photographs, blogs or resources by 1 March 2010.

Visit www.ifl.ac.uk/yourinput or email communications@ifl.ac.uk



Become an IfL Volunteer Connection

Join the IfL Connections Network and play a pivotal role in supporting your peers in the effective use of REfLECT as part of their CPD, and advising colleagues on IfL.

Share your research on the IfL Research Hub

IfL's research and policy hub provides a forum for members to share ideas and comment on the developments within the FE and skills sector.

Keep up-to-date and share your views online

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter to share your views. Keep up-to-date with the IfL blog.

Visit www.ifl.ac.uk for further details

IfL Calendar 2010

FEBRUARY

28 QTLS and ATLS awards: deadline for sending in evidence for Spring 2010 Cycle (applied September/October 2009)

MARCH

1 Membership renewals open online

APRIL

1 QTLS and ATLS: applications open for Winter 2010 Cycle of QTLS and ATLS

MAY

11 IfL Advisory Council meeting
31 QTLS and ATLS: applications close for Winter 2010 Cycle of QTLS and ATLS

JUNE

1 CPD self-declaration opens
30 Professional Formation – deadline for sending in evidence (Summer 2010 Cycle, applied December 2009-January 2010)

AUGUST

31 CPD self-declaration closes

OCTOBER

12 IfL Advisory Council meeting
31 Professional Formation – deadline for sending in evidence (Winter 2010 Cycle, applied April-May 2010)

Watch out for your copy of *On the Agenda*, your regular IfL e-newsletter

For further information and updates on events (including development dates for IfL Volunteer Connections) visit: www.ifl.ac.uk/newsandevents

Contact us

More information

You will find a lot of information conveniently and quickly by visiting www.ifl.ac.uk – for everything you need to know about CPD, REfLECT, Professional Formation, IfL Connections, membership, member benefits and much more.

Tel: 0844 815 3202

Membership team: enquiries@ifl.ac.uk

CPD team: cpd@ifl.ac.uk

Professional Formation: pf@ifl.ac.uk

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