Powerful knowledge: a 3-Dimensional approach to curriculum making focussing on beautiful work, development of character and academic success

Martin Said, School Designer, XP School Trust

This session discusses how XP School Trust is enacting a curriculum designed to develop effective learners and learning, in which equal importance is given to the creation of beautiful work, development of character and academic success. Pupils learn at XP primarily through cross-curricular learning expeditions. Martin will discuss some of the epistemic challenges and advantages of this way of working and will use an KS3 expedition on the topic of migrants to put forward a case for this being an example of a Future 3 (Young 2014) curriculum, giving XP’s students ‘powerful knowledge’ that takes them beyond their own context. (https://xpschool.org/our-expeditions/)

Martin Said is a founding member of the team at XP Trust. In 2017 he became Head of XP School, Doncaster and is now working across the Trust, leading on teacher development and pedagogy. Martin is currently part of the team applying to open a new XP school in Gateshead, the beginning of a new hub for XP in the North-East.

Originally from Gateshead, Martin has a background initially in Engineering. He then went on to train to teach music teacher. In his role at Cramlington Learning Village, he was responsible for Project-Based Learning which led him to join XP.

XP School, Doncaster was inspected by Ofsted in 2017 and was awarded Outstanding in all categories. The first set of GCSE results in 2019 were very strong.