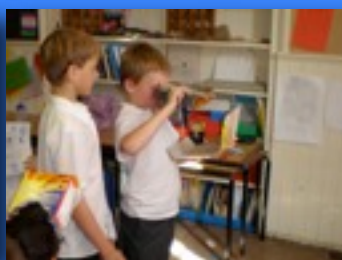
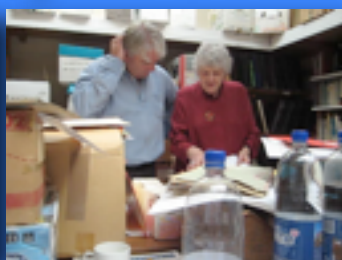


# Mantle of the Expert Newsletter



[www.mantleoftheexpert.com](http://www.mantleoftheexpert.com)

Spring 2009

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## Mantle of the Expert News

*Welcome to the Spring 2009 Mantle of the Expert Newsletter.*

It looks as though 2009 is set to be the most exciting year yet in the development of mantle-of-the-expert. Schools, local authorities and creative partnerships across the country are exploring Dorothy Heathcote's dramatic-inquiry approach and interest is growing internationally in China, New Zealand, Europe and the USA. Many hundreds of teachers across the world are now using and adapting Mantle of the Expert as a means to redesign their curriculum and provide engaging and meaningful learning experiences for their pupils.

## The Rose Review

In England and Wales there are also encouraging signs that thinking is changing at government level. In his interim report for the review of the primary curriculum Sir Jim Rose's has stressed the 'central importance' of developing children's speaking and listening

skills to their overall learning and development. He has recommended the new primary curriculum be built around six core areas of learning, 'to give schools optimum flexibility for planning cross-curricular studies, and ample opportunities to teach essential content discretely and directly'. Teachers using Mantle of the Expert will welcome these proposals and hope they bear fruit when the new National



Curriculum is published in September 2011. They will also welcome Rose's insistence that the report does not advocate a dilution of subject

knowledge or a return to vague 'topic' planning.

Although there are still many in the establishment who stress the primacy of standards, the promise of a new curriculum that puts spoken communication and understanding at the centre of learning will offer opportunities for change that have not existed in British education for a generation.



You can read Sir Jim Rose's an update and the full interim report on the [DCSF website](#).

## Dorothy Heathcote Training Weekend - February 27<sup>th</sup> - 1<sup>st</sup> March 2009



Led by Dorothy Heathcote, the inventor of the Mantle of the Expert approach, this training weekend, designed for experienced users, will explore in great detail the complex design and drama structures that lie at the heart of Moe and which can be used to create deep and sustained learning experiences for pupils.

A significant aspect of the course will be the role played by tasks in developing mantle-of-the-expert. For the first time, Professor Heathcote will be able to take a team of participating teachers through the significant components and tools of the system to develop a long term set of episodes in classrooms. The weekend will be predominantly practical and skills based.

The course begins 6.00 Friday night (27<sup>th</sup> February) and finishes Sunday lunch-time (1<sup>st</sup> March). Places are extremely limited. For more information and to make a booking please visit the [mantle of the expert website](#).

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### Courses on Mantle of the Expert in 2009

There will be many further opportunities to access training and support on Mantle of the Expert in 2009

- **In the East** - [Norfolk - Developing Mantle of the Expert Beginners Course](#)
- **Suffolk** - [Mantle of the Expert Forum](#)
- **Essex** – Training courses for beginners and more experienced users
- [Weekend residential training courses at Ringsfield Hall in February, October and November](#)
- **In the Midlands** – [The West Midlands Mantle of the Expert Network](#)
- [The National Mantle of the Expert Conference at Malvern, Worcestershire](#)
- **In the North-East** – A weekend residential course planned for Autumn, 2009, date & location to be announced.
- **In the South-West** - A weekend residential course planned for Autumn, 2009, date & location to be announced.

During the last year we have run training and courses in schools, local authorities and universities in: Essex, Durham, Newcastle, Birmingham, London, Norfolk, Suffolk, Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Peterborough, Kent, Hampshire, Somerset, Wiltshire, Devon, Bristol, Wales, Yorkshire, Kent, NATD Oxford, Warrington, China and USA.

If you would like further information on these courses, would like to make a booking or if you would like to arrange a more bespoke course, please email: [mail@mantleoftheexpert.com](mailto:mail@mantleoftheexpert.com)

## National & International Mantle of the Expert Conferences for 2009



This year there are two Mantle of the Expert conferences.

The National Mantle of the Expert at the Abbey Hotel, Malvern, Worcestershire, Friday June, 19<sup>th</sup>

The International Mantle of the Expert Conference, at the University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand, August 27<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup>



For more information on these conferences and to make a booking please click on the links.

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### The Heathcote Archive



Since August 2008 we have been busy copying the Heathcote Archive into various digital formats. Our primary aim has been to preserve as much of the video, audio and text material from the archive as possible.

Much of Dorothy's work in the 1970's, 80's and 90's was recorded on video and has been collected in the archive. Unfortunately VHS tape tends to deteriorate badly over time and much of the footage is in danger of becoming unwatchable. By converting the video tape into a digital format we will be able to arrest the decline and (this is our hope) make available online through the Mantle of the Expert website.

The job of copying and uploading the archive is proving to be a Herculean task (tension level 4), however, we are confident material will start appearing on the website shortly. Including articles, videos and dissertations from her students at Newcastle.

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### News on the Development of Mantle of the Expert in China

The Peoples Party of Nanjing China invited Luke Abbott to present an open seminar and a practical MoE case study in early January 2009 in order for teachers, teacher trainers, educationalists, government officials and Party members to be made aware of the system. The Chinese education bureau are very keen to invest in new strategies that take their recently constructed agenda for reform forwards. The results were highly positive causing much discussion amongst Chinese colleagues around the pedagogy of empowering people to influence their learning and the implications to training teachers in China.

Several primary trained Chinese teachers who have been part of the 2008 Essex Continuing Professional Development (CPD) were so intrigued with Essex schools using the system (Newlands Spring CP, John Bunyan Infants, Boreham CP and St Giles Great Maplestead) that they took their observations to Party members and senior education officials in Jiangsu with the support of Lili Lin, Essex's Jiangsu Centre Manager. Together the invitation was created for Luke and Lili Lin to travel to China to present the workings of the system in a practical workshop, with the advice from the inventor, Professor Dorothy Heathcote.