

Simon Thomson

Tel: 07833214007

Address: 8, Malting Mead, Endymion Road, Hatfield, AL10 8AR

Email: scfthomson@gmail.com **Skype:** scfthomson

A creative and passionate trainer, teacher, and project manager with experience of classroom teaching, teacher training, and management and delivery of theatre learning, museum education, and international development, all for both adults and children. I am committed both to the idea of learning through play and through experience, and to rigorous systems and theories underpinning effective management and delivery of programmes of work. I am particularly excited by projects that bring together clashing cultures, ideas, or people to produce learning, and by working to develop individuals' appreciation of their own skills and potential.

Skills and Knowledge

Teaching and learning

- Understanding and experience of a wide range of learning styles and approaches
- Passion for bespoke work meeting learners' needs and interests – never 'one size fits all'
- Ability to find links, connections, and opportunities for bringing ideas, systems, and people together
- Creative user of available and relevant resources: objects, spaces, people, words, images, sounds, smells

Strategic Leadership and Organisational Development

- Strategic thinker, with experience of devising, implementing and managing strategy
- Experience of leading and supporting organisational change
- Strong financial management skills

Project Management

- Experience of managing high-level projects
- Highly developed organisational and administrative skills with excellent attention to detail
- Flexible and responsive to changing priorities
- Commitment to and experience of developing projects into sustainable long term work

Analytical, problem-solving and decision-making abilities

- Positive, practical and solution-focused approach
- Skilled at root-cause identification – logical and rational thinker
- Innovative and creative

Team work

- 'Big picture' view – able to identify connections and opportunities
- Empathetic with good listening skills
- Focused on enabling members of a team to develop and practise their skills and interests

Communication and relationship management

- Highly developed interpersonal skills with a wide range of groups
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, from writing proposals and reports to public speaking

Education/Qualifications

MA in Medieval Literature (UCL) Pass with distinction, Hobbes Memorial Prize

PGCE in Secondary English and Drama (University of Wolverhampton) Pass with distinction

BA (Hons) in English Language and Literature (University of Oxford) 2:1

4 A Levels in English Literature (A), History (A), Classical Civilisation (A) General Studies (A)

1 AS Level in Latin (A)

10 GCSEs – 4 at Grade A*, 6 at Grade A (including English Language and Mathematics)

Recent Employment History

November 2011 onwards **Cambridge Education**
Consultant to the Education Sector Support Programme in Nigeria (freelance)

Main Responsibilities

- developing the capacity of Education Quality Specialists in 6 States across Nigeria;
- developing and delivering training for State School Improvement Teams on best practice in teaching and learning, and in education management;
- working with members of State Ministries and Basic Education Boards to develop their understanding of teaching and learning, to enable the creation of systems, and to identify funding opportunities;
- evaluating successes and challenges in the Programme's work, with a focus on enabling sustainable and integrated change to take place once the Programme ends.

Key Successes

- reorienting School Improvement Teams in 3 states and enabling them to work as part of their States rather than for the UK-aid Programme;
- creating an Early Years training and support programme for 1,300 centres;
- supporting the creation and implementation of a monitoring and reporting system for State Governments and for UK-aid.

June 2010 to November 2011 **State Universal Basic Education Board, Kaduna, Nigeria**
VSO voluntary placement – Teacher Trainer

Main Responsibilities

- work with government and development organisation staff to create new, functional systems for the management, funding, and delivery of high quality universal basic education;
- visiting a wide range of schools to identify successes and on-going needs;
- creating and delivering training to enable School Improvement Teams to train teachers and head teachers in six states across Nigeria;
- working closely with an Assistant Director to enable her to create a new Unit, appoint and manage staff, develop her understanding of effective teaching and learning, and establish the importance of creative, high quality teaching and learning in the Kaduna State government.

Key Successes

- securing 150 million Naira of state funding to replicate the Programme's pilot work;
- leading the reimagining of the role of state officers in the training and support of school staff, including the creation of new roles with the structure and funding to enable functionality;
- visiting all Local Governments in Kaduna State to secure the support and engagement of Chairmen, and to share new role descriptions with over a thousand state staff;
- supporting the creation of Learning Benchmarks for Primary school children.

November 2008 to May 2010 **Imperial War Museum, Cabinet War Rooms**
Head of Learning and Access

Main Responsibilities

- manage and plan for the department's resources, budget, and team;
- additional responsibility for the Learning team and programmes at IWM HMS Belfast;
- write and edit print and web marketing material, and speak with press as required;
- oversee all delivery of sessions, projects, and relationships.

Key Successes

- creation of Museums at Night event, generating national publicity including live radio and television interviews;
- transformation of an unimaginative, frustrated department into a dynamic and creative team;
- innovative use of objects and spaces, including historic rooms;
- successful introduction of charging sessions while maintaining and developing client relationships.

July 2007 - November 2008

Globe Education, Shakespeare's Globe

Learning & Teaching Coordinator

Main Responsibilities

- manage, train and support the freelance team responsible for delivering all sessions;
- manage a freelance team of consultants and drama education experts;
- speak with and write for press and industry publications;
- support creation of material and content for projects and programmes.

Key Successes

- established, managed, and marketed a teacher training programme, including two MA modules;
- created training and monitoring teams and systems;
- developed strong relationships and projects with other departments;
- developed and supported the creation of a new assessment method for KS3 Shakespeare.

September 2005 - August 2007 Riddlesdown High School

Teacher of English and Drama

Main Responsibilities

- teach students 11-19, following National Curriculum and school policies;
- pastoral responsibility for a Tutor Group;
- report to parents and management as required;
- additional responsibilities of producing ongoing school plays and coaching a football team.

Key Successes

- 80% of students in three GCSE C/D borderline classes achieving grade C or above;
- directing the first outdoor performance at the school, which was also the first Year 9 production;
- developing strong and effective relationships with pupils with special learning needs.

References

Lilian Breakell
Technical Task Team Leader

lilian.breakell@esspin.org

ESSPIN Abuja
Plot 7, Kainji Crescent
Maitama
Abuja
Nigeria

Samantha Heywood
Director of Learning and Interpretation

sheywood@iwm.org.uk

Imperial War Museum
Lambeth Road
London
SE1 6HZ

Further references available on request