



ACCS Convention 10 – 12 March, 2010

Teaching and Learning in the 'Smart' School

by Eamon Stack

***All of life is education and everybody is a
teacher and everybody is forever a pupil***

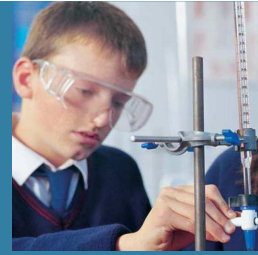
Abraham Maslow

Overview



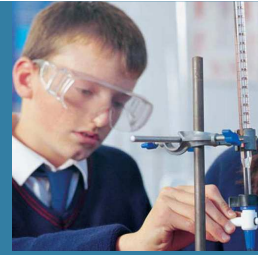
- 1. Learning about learning**
- 2. Some messages from inspection reports in recent years**
- 3. International messages – Lessons Learned: how good policies produce better schools**
- 4. School improvement through external inspection and school self-evaluation**
- 5. Curriculum – reform of Junior Cycle and important key skills needed at Senior Cycle**
- 6. Leadership – the importance of an exceptional leader in a smart school**
- 7. Leadership Coaching – how it can help in many ways**
- 8. Conclusion**

Learning:



- **to know**
- **to do**
- **to live together**
- **to be (i.e. autonomous, creative, responsible, sensitive and a problem solver)**

The role that teachers will play going forward, will be more



- **As facilitators of learning rather than as purveyors of knowledge;**
- **As members of professional teams in schools rather than as independent practitioners in individual classrooms; and**
- **As critical self-evaluators striving to improve learning outcomes for all learners all of the time**

Ensuring that every school has excellent leadership means doing four things:



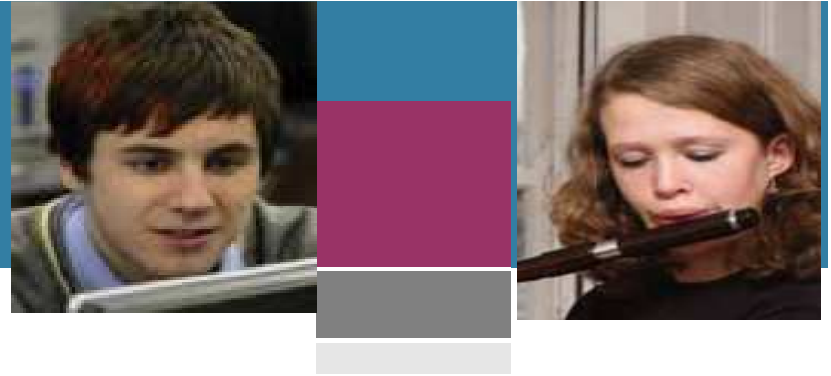
- **Creating the right programmes to develop school leaders;**
- **Attracting and selecting the right people for leadership positions;**
- **Empowering leaders and protecting their time, and**
- **Intervening quickly to tackle ineffective school leadership**

So what should happen after an inspection?



- **Full circulation of the report**
- **Read and examine the strengths and areas for development**
- **Review the school's planning and self-evaluation**
- **What actions will we take now?**
- **Implementation, monitoring and review to ensure real improvement happens**

How could self-evaluation bring about this better focus ?



- **By asking questions about outcomes**
- **By basing judgement on solid evidence**
- **By facilitating and encouraging peer learning and peer review**
- **By setting clear targets for change and improvement**

The five key skills identified by the NCCA are:



- **Information processing**
- **Critical and Creative thinking**
- **Communication**
- **Working with others**
- **Being personally effective**

The 21 Indispensable Qualities of a Leader



1. **Character**
2. **Charisma**
3. **Commitment**
4. **Communication**
5. **Competence**
6. **Courage**
7. **Discernment**
8. **Focus**
9. **Generosity**
10. **Initiative**
11. **Listening**
12. **Passion**
13. **Positive Attitude**
14. **Problem Solving**
15. **Relationships**
16. **Responsibility**
17. **Security**
18. **Self-Discipline**
19. **Servanthood**
20. **Teachability**
21. **Vision**

Leadership Coaching is:



- **forward focused**
- **coachee led**
- **about improving performance (excellence)**

Benefits of Coaching:



- **Better self-awareness and self-reflection**
- **Increased individual performance**
- **Higher motivation**
- **Better leadership skills**
- **Higher quality of work/life balance**
- **Better management of change processes**
- **Improved communication and relationships**

For me, a good teacher is one who:



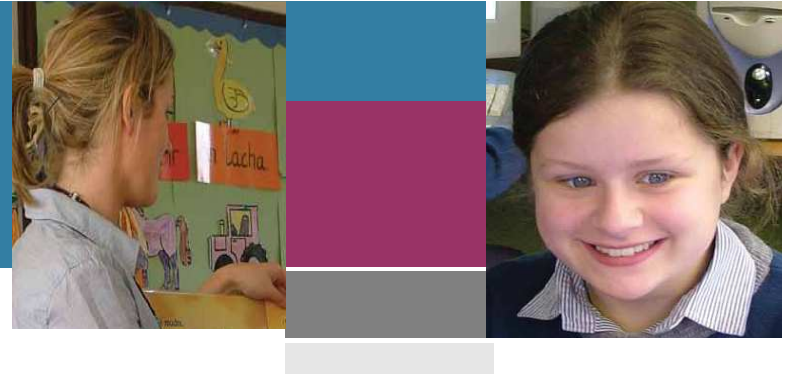
- **Excites, inspires and engages the learner**
- **Gives clear and stimulating lesson presentations**
- **Facilitates cooperative learning and the development of higher-order thinking skills and collaborative problem solving skills**
- **Instils a love of learning and inquiry**
- **Has a profound interest in each learner and their individual needs**
- **Has empathy with learners and the issues that affect them**
- **Is adaptable and willing to change**
- **Is a committed learner himself/herself – constantly developing his/her own practice**



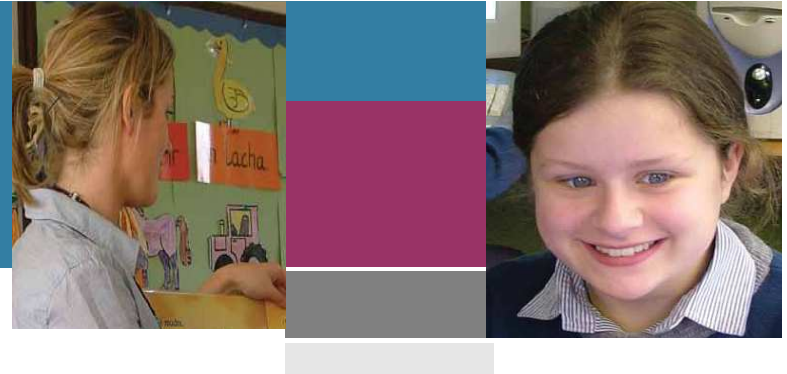
I always placed a high importance on the sanctity of the individuals I taught; it was a privilege to dance and prance in their company and treat each as if he were a family member. The memories that remain are a priceless treasure that would sustain me on any desert island. Retired now I consider the efforts made and assistance given to pupils was no more than duty called for. Such is the way of the world, as an extended family, they flew when they fledged.

(from Mr. MAC – A Blackboard Memoir by Maurice McMahan)

One Final Thought



- 1. Everything begins with a thought.**
- 2. What we think determines who we are. Who we are determines what we do**
- 3. Our thoughts determine our destiny. Our destiny determines our legacy.**
- 4. People who go to the top think differently than others.**
- 5. We can change the way we think**



Thank you for listening

Eamon Stack

The principal goal of education is to create men and women who are capable of doing new things, not simply of repeating what other generations have done – men and women who are creative, inventive and discoverers

Jean Piaget