
Learning Styles and Thinking Skills – contributing to the development of effective practice in learning and teaching

University of Bolton, Tuesday 25th April 2006.

Our Aim

This day conference is aimed at helping practitioners to re-evaluate their practice in the light of recent research studies commissioned and published by the Learning and Skills Development Agency and share their answers to the question, “how do we best help our students become better learners?”

By the end of the day participants will have a better understanding of the range of learning styles models available and grounds for judging their value; and a range of ideas about how to incorporate the development of thinking skills into their practice

The Contributors

The **keynote presenters** are **Frank Coffield** and **Steve Higgins**.

Frank Coffield is a Professor of Education in the School of Lifelong Education and International Development, Institute of Education.

Frank Coffield is part of the team who produced *Learning styles and pedagogy in post-16 learning: A systematic and critical review* and *Should we be using learning styles?: What research has to say to practice*.

Steve Higgins is currently a Senior Lecturer in the School of Education, Communication and Language Sciences at the University of Newcastle, and was a member of the team that produced *Thinking skill frameworks for post-16 learners: an evaluation*. Commencing September 2006 he will take up a Chair at Durham University.

The Context

In 2004, the Learning and Skills Development Agency published the outcomes from a major systematic review of learning styles which questioned the value of the learning styles questionnaires being used in many schools and colleges as a basis for teachers changing their pedagogic practice. In the same year it also published a major evaluation of thinking skills frameworks and the value of using these with learners (all can be found at: <http://www.lstda.org.uk/pubs/>).

Both studies are significant for practitioners in schools, colleges and higher education who are engaged in helping learners understand themselves better and improve as learners. Activities aimed at achieving this better understanding are usually to be found under the broad headings of Progress File or Personal Development Planning. The most widely-used electronic systems to support Progress File/PDP have some form of learning styles questionnaire built into them, and the use of such systems is spreading.

The costs to attend this event will be:

- £85.00 non CRA Members
- £75.00 CRA Individual Associate Members
- £65.00 CRA Members

Places at this event will be limited. You can reserve a place now by completing the attached booking form and sending it to:-

Cath Hewson, Conference Administrator
The Centre for Recording Achievement
39 Bridgeman Terrace, WIGAN WN1 1TT.

Tel: 01942-826761; Fax: 01942-323337; e-mail cath@recordingachievement.org

A full programme will be available shortly