



Solihull Heads' Partnership Meeting

Thursday 28th March 2019

Sir John Jones

We are delighted to be welcoming Sir John Jones to our meeting. Sir John is one of a small, select band of educational professionals who have not only had their achievements recognised in the New Year's Honours List (2003), but have been able to help and inspire others with their knowledge and passion. One of the most entertaining, inspiring and sought-after speakers on the global educational stage, his achievements and reputation for straight-talking, leadership and creativity have led him to be invited on to a number of panels and think-tanks.

When Headteacher of three secondary schools over a period of 17 years, he was asked to join the Government's Policy Action Team for Neighbourhood Renewal at the Social Exclusion Unit. He was also a member of the Headteachers' National Focus Group on Truancy and Exclusion and the Excellence in Cities Project at the DfES. Sir John was part of the National Remodelling Team and the Leadership and Development Unit sponsored by the National College for School Leadership.

Working part-time at the Centre for Educational Leadership at Manchester University, he presented on a range of programmes as well as designing and delivering a Master's Course at Liverpool University focused on leadership of change. A Non-Executive Director on the board of Aintree Hospitals Trust, he was also a Governor of two schools on Merseyside.

Sir John has written a number of books, his most recent being, 'The Magic-Weaving Business – Teaching in the 21st Century'. In the past he has played football semi-professionally and earned his living as a singer/guitarist in a rock duo! He is a season ticket holder for his beloved Everton and feels privileged to be Chair of the Board of 'Everton in the Community' and a Governor at The Everton Free School. He is a Governor at Bolton St Catherine's Academy, a 3-19 all through school in Bolton and is also proud to be the Chancellor of Sefton's Children's University.

We have asked Sir John to focus his presentation on 'The Big Curriculum' in order that we may look at our own school's provision and think beyond the requirements of the National Curriculum and the accountability agenda and think about designing an inspirational curriculum which nurtures and develops the whole person (pupils and staff). In his most recent book he argues:

'The Magic Weaving Business - Teaching in the 21st Century'.

Research suggests that 80% of the jobs primary school children will do have not been invented yet so we are preparing our young people for a world that doesn't exist. To thrive in this world we will all need creativity, ingenuity, portability & flexibility. The best way to develop such abilities in our children is to surround them with adults who possess the same abilities. Teachers of great imagination who are passionately committed to the relentless pursuit of excellence.

The good news is teachers will make a difference, the bad news is teachers will make a difference!