

# Mantle of the Expert in Initial Teacher Education: an imaginative partnership

CPRT

18 November 2016

Group C: pedagogy, research and teacher education

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# Mantle of the Expert at Newcastle University's Primary PGCE: the development of partnership

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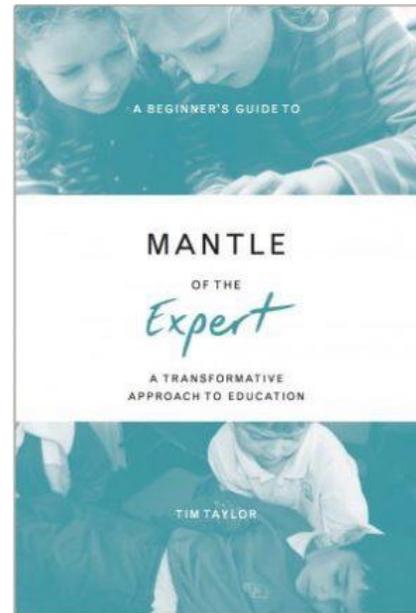
# Background

- ▶ Newcastle University has a long tradition of work in innovative curriculum and pedagogy
- ▶ The Mantle of the Expert: Dorothy Heathcote
- ▶ The Primary PGCE: challenges and interests
- ▶ Tim Taylor <http://www.mantleoftheexpert.com/>



# So what is Mantle of the Expert?

- ▶ Taylor, T (2016) *A Beginner's Guide to Mantle of the Expert*:



# So what is Mantle of the Expert?

- ▶ An example from Taylor, T (2016) *A Beginner's Guide to Mantle of the Expert*

- ▶ Titanic



# Mantle of the Expert- Theme and commission

## Titanic

A team of marine archaeologists is aboard a specially equipped research ship, two miles above the wreck of RMS Titanic.

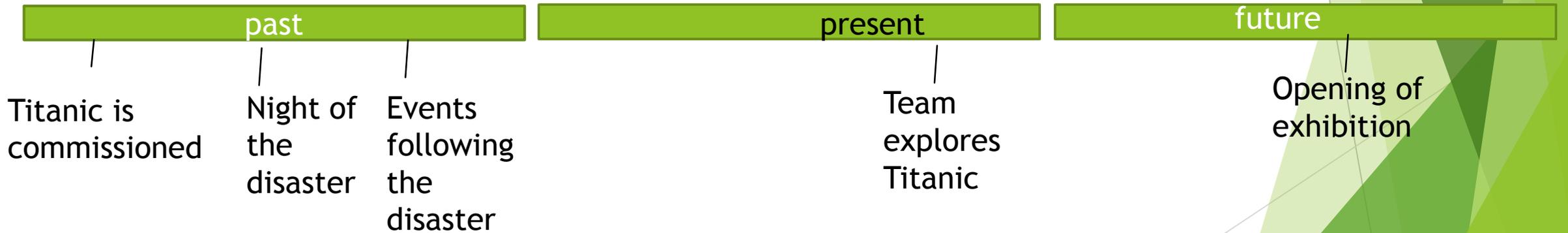
The British Museum has commissioned the team - the objective is:

- ▶ To explore the wreck as sensitively as possible
- ▶ To find personal objects
- ▶ Use the object to create an exhibition to tell the forgotten stories of those involved in the disaster

# Mantle of the Expert- planning stage

- ▶ Overview of learning: knowledge, skills, understanding, social
- ▶ What's interesting: for students, for teachers
- ▶ Inquiry questions
- ▶ Levels of tension
- ▶ Location
- ▶ time
- ▶ Client
- ▶ Commission
- ▶ Activities and curriculum links
- ▶ The start
- ▶ Researching

# Mantle of the Expert- time



# Mantle of the Expert- the start

- ▶ Introducing the context:
  - ▶ Sharing a partial narrative :
    - ▶ What's happening?
    - ▶ Signs for the students to interpret
    - ▶ Something to attract their interest
    - ▶ Inquiry questions



# Mantle of the Expert- researching and data handling

Age/gender	Class/crew	Number aboard	Number saved	Number lost	Percentage saved	Percentage lost
Children	First Class	6	5	1	83%	17%
	Second Class	24	24	0	100%	0%
	Third Class	79	27	52	34%	66%
Women	First Class	144	140	4	97%	3%
	Second Class	93	80	13	86%	14%
	Third Class	165	76	89	46%	54%
	Crew	23	20	3	87%	13%
Men	First Class	175	57	118	33%	67%
	Second Class	168	14	154	8%	92%
	Third Class	462	75	387	16%	84%
	Crew	885	192	693	22%	78%
Total		2224	710	1514	32%	68%

# Mantle of the Expert- Introducing the imaginary context

- This buoy was brought up this morning by a team of marine archaeologists
- If you were reporters, what would you ask?
- Interviewing the marine archaeologist (teacher in role)



# Mantle of the Expert- Introducing the imaginary context

- ▶ Creating the artefacts
- ▶ ‘these are the photographs taken by the marine archaeology team during their dive down the wreck. If I hand them out, would you mind taking them as members of the team? You’ll notice there is nothing on them currently. I was thinking we might create the photographs by drawing pictures of the artefacts we found while exploring the wreck, objects we’d like to take a closer look at when we return to the wreck later today.’

# Mantle of the Expert- Introducing the imaginary context

- ▶ Stepping into the past:
  - ▶ What are the hidden stories unknown to the archaeology team?
    - ▶ Work in groups and discuss the artefacts created. What are the hidden stories unknown to the archaeology team?
    - ▶ Choose one of the stories to explore together in more detail
    - ▶ Create a moment in the history of that object on board the Titanic.

# Mantle of the Expert



- ▶ Dorothy Heathcote understood ...that stories are somehow “psychologically privileged’ and a fundamental (and ancient) medium for learning and making meaning.
- ▶ Her invention of *Mantle of the Expert* gives us a practical and coherent strategy for incorporating these ideas and bringing them alive in exciting and meaningful ways for students. In classrooms using the approach stories are not just things in books, but events children can step into, interact with, and create.

<http://www.imaginative-inquiry.co.uk/2016/10/some-background-on-mantle-of-the-expert/>

# Mantle of the Expert and the Primary PGCE at Newcastle University

Newcastle Uni  
Primary PGCE

Tim Taylor

Mantle of the expert - a pedagogy which:

- Vastly increases authentic experiences through imagination
- Provides collaborative and responsible ownership
- Develops autonomy, collaboration, problem solving, decision making, etc.
- Provides a meaningful and integrated way to engage with the curriculum

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## We are a Mantle of the Expert Training School

### Welcome to St John's Primary School

Welcome to St John's Primary School

St John's is a school at the heart of the community of South Benwell, Newcastle. We are a school which was judged to be good by Ofsted in February 2014, where every child is encouraged to achieve their very best. Children here make good progress and leave us well equipped to succeed in their secondary education. Our school has grown significantly in recent years and has an excellent reputation in the local area.

[Read more](#)

# Mantle at St John's

## Views of Tracey Caffrey, the head teacher

- ▶ Area of high deprivation, very challenging circumstances
- ▶ The school struggled for many years to raise standards
- ▶ Children were not inspired, motivated. Appeared to have learned, but 'nothing stuck'
  
- ▶ Journey with Mantle of the Expert 10 years ago
- ▶ Tracey Caffrey became HT 7 years ago
- ▶ Investment in staff training
- ▶ St John's is Mantle Training school since Autumn 2015

# Mantle at St John's

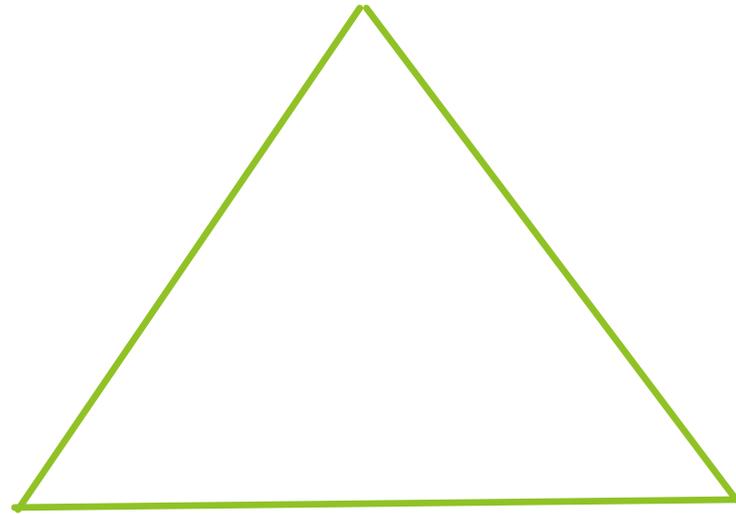
## Views of Tracey Caffrey, the head teacher

- ▶ The curriculum is meaningful: purpose, interest, engagement.
- ▶ Experiences, vocabulary, skills, resilience, empathy, passion
- ▶ Everyone's mindset has changed:
  - ▶ Children are eager to learn
  - ▶ Staff are creative
  - ▶ Very positive feedback from parents
- ▶ Standards: 2015 Y6 SATS results:
  - ▶ 100% Level 4 in reading, maths, 90% in writing.

# Mantle partnership 2015-16

St John's Primary School,  
South Benwell

<http://www.stjohns.newcastle.sch.uk/website>



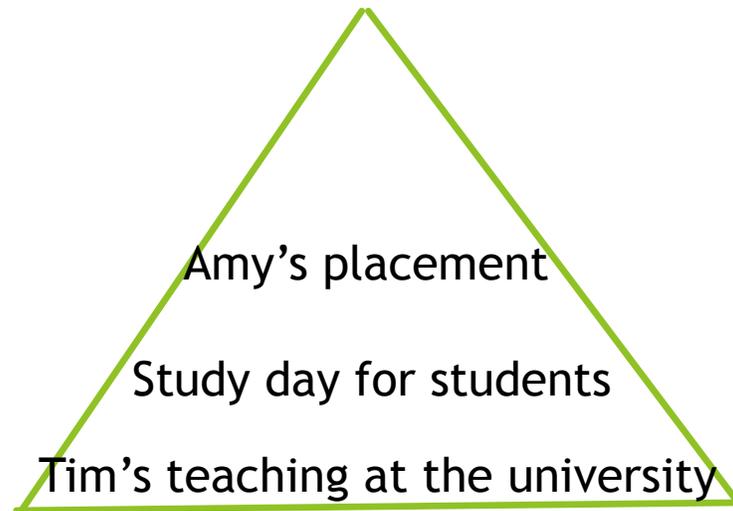
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# Mantle partnership 2015-16

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Primary PGCE

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# Amy's experiences at St John's

- Designed own Mantle : Rio
  - The Olympics
  - Favelas
  - Zika virus
  - Help organisation



Amy's job interview

St John Study Day

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Curriculum and School Development

# Developing the partnership

- ▶ For students
- ▶ For St John's
- ▶ for the university: teacher education
- ▶ Potential for research in Mantle at St John's (CfLaT)
- ▶ Development of other curriculum innovation specialist partnerships/ placements.

Any questions?