

‘Passing on the Baton’ -

- the relay run of professional legacy and development, ‘03 to ‘23.

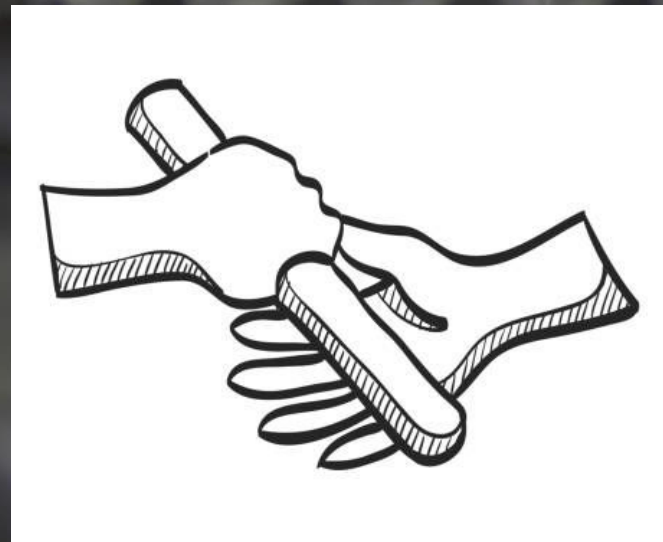
Introduction to the premise of this session.

Today, we'd like to tell you about:

- The ingredients for consistent, meaningful and sustained professional growth.
- The conditions for the above and how you can create them.

And we'd like to ask you:

- Are you connected?
- Are you investing?



Introducing our four speakers today:

Alex - trained at Kingsford on the GTP French/Mandarin '05-'07, remained at Kingsford as HO MFL until 2015, now Seven Kings HO MFL and 'Learning Partnership' Leader.

Lin - trained at Kingsford Community School on the GTP Mandarin '03-04', worked at Kingsford for 16 years, as HO Chinese, later HO MFL. Now work as Senior Chinese Consultant at Harris Federation.

Xuan - trained at Lister Community school on School direct Mandarin/French. Second placement was in Kingsford(Mentor: Alex Ferraby). Worked at Lister for another 2 years. Moved on to Harris Academy Chobham in 2017. Became head of MN and Lead Practitioner in 2019. Currently Director of Learning for MFL at Chobham.

Zak - studied a PGCE at UCL IOE in Mandarin and Spanish (2022) with placements at Grey Court School and Seven Kings School (under Alex Ferraby). Currently in my second year as a Mandarin, Spanish, and Russian teacher at Whitgift School.



Relay leg #1: Lin's going to talk about - getting the roots in.

Lin - Describes the humble beginnings (early 2000s)

- What was it that powered the early pioneers?
- What fuel inspired the early decision making? What were your early goals?
- Where did the early resources come from? How were they shared?
- How did the energy build up? -How did schools build the profile of Mn in their schools?
- Making it practical for our audience - what does this mean for them?



Getting started:

- Nothing in place.
- Started from mirroring French SOW and French resources
- Asking advice from experienced teacher (Xiaoming Zhu)
- Asking advice from other MFL colleagues (e.g. language teaching) or any colleagues whom I think I can learn from (e.g. behaviour management)
- Asking for help (in person rather than via email if possible)
- Integrated into the school community, build up relationships, go out for a drink
- Keep trying, don't give up easily (e.g. first China trip)

Perhaps ask yourself:

- What are you struggling with at the moment?
- Who can you ask for advice?
- Who can you go for help?
- Do you feel part of the school community?
- How can you build up relationships in your school?
- When facing difficulty, do you give up or do you try everything you can?



Relay leg #2: Alex is going to talk about - first growth.

Getting started.

- The conditions were in place:
- Structure, intent, integration in MFL, ambition.
- Resources available: lesson materials > time allocation > support staff > parental engagement.
- Professional environment: Integration with other MFL, CPD, Networking,

Perhaps ask yourself:

- How are the conditions where you are?
- Is Mandarin some 'school glitter' or is there an intended goal?
- Do you see and do you TRUST the provision of resources? (If not, who do you need to speak to?)
- Is Mandarin fully adopted into the MFL context?
- Are school leaders serious about your growth and training?

A bit more about: position of Mandarin within MFL.



- Credibility > It has made a difference in the lives of children.
- Ambition and vision.
- Investment.
- Recruitment.
- School profile of the subject.
- Parental engagement.

Therefore, ask yourself?

- How is Mandarin perceived in your school/Trust?
- Are you able to steer the ambition and goal intent?
- Is MONEY available upon request? (Within reason!)
- Are you alone? Will colleagues be replaced? Will money be spent on wide recruitment?
- How do parents view the subject?



A bit more about: professional nurturing.

- Paying attention and learning from those around you.
- Deliberate practice and repeat. Self-improvement.
- CPD requests and re-investment.
- Professional mentoring, advice, support and challenge.
- Opportunities for professional growth: leadership & promotion.
- Receiving and training student teachers.



Relay leg #3: Q&A with Xuan - baton safe in hand.

Q&A with Xuan Gao- early days of teacher training...

- What made the difference in your training?
- Who and what pushed and encouraged you through challenges?
- From where have you gained the best resources?
- How did you first find an entry point into positions of leadership?



Relay leg #4: Q&A with Zak - The current state of play.

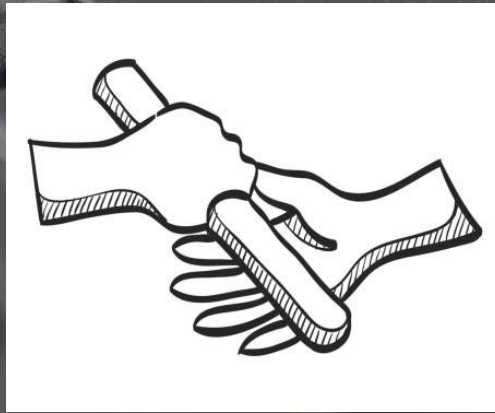
Q&A with Zak Twist - The current state of play...

1. How and why did you choose the UCL IOE PGCE course?
2. So how was your training year?
3. What challenges did you face on your training year that were specific to teaching Mandarin?
4. Alex mentioned the 'conditions' which allowed him to become established as a Mandarin teacher - so what conditions did you need in order to be successful in your training?
5. You've trained in the state sector and you've found a job in the private sector - tell us a bit more about your experiences.

Questions we'd like to ask you:

- Are you connected? > Learning from others?
 - Not just 'picking up resources'.
 - Challenging yourself to different methods and routines?
- Are people investing in YOU? - your personal teaching development, your leadership abilities, your 'reach'?
- Are YOU investing? - Do you spend time developing others? Do you work with student teachers? Do you make your resources available?





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