



<b>Name</b>	Dr Stephen Wilkinson, English Teacher, Ashlyns School
<b>Session Title</b>	Academic Literacies across the curriculum: One reason why children go backwards after KS2 and some ideas to prevent them.
<b>Time of Session</b>	English: 14.00 – 15.00

### Speaker Profile

Stephen is an academic and classroom teacher who uses what he calls an 'empathetic approach' to teaching and learning. A lifelong learner and reflective practitioner with more than 25 years experience, Stephen has a Phd in Hispanic Literature, a Diploma in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education and a Diploma in Teaching English as an Additional Language. In his career, Stephen has taught English Language and Literature, History, Geography, Spanish, Politics, Sociology and International Relations. He has published research on the application of what is known as the 'academic literacies approach' to teaching literacy and has trained practitioners in its use in the University sector. Stephen now divides his time between teaching at Ashlyns School, King's College London and The University of Buckingham. He is also regarded as one of the UK's leading experts on the country of Cuba and edits an academic journal of research about the island.

### Session Synopsis

Academic literacies is an approach that focuses on the way in which meaning is made in different disciplines. It acknowledges that each subject has its own discourse that not only requires learning a new lexicon but also mastering how to construct meaning using subject specific grammatical structures. (Hence literacies rather than merely literacy across the curriculum). In this workshop, participants will work through real-life examples that illustrate the confusing range of linguistic difference students encounter when they enter the silo world of secondary education. The presentation will argue that this is a largely unnoticed reason why many students apparently stall or go backwards in their first year of KS3. It also explains a key difficulty encountered by EAL learners and native speakers who struggle to write essays in different subjects. Tips will be suggested for subject teachers to help students negotiate this Babel, boost their confidence and enhance their literacy. There are also some good ideas for differentiation, too!