



**KAA Think Piece.**  
**Great Teaching – using  
virtual professional  
learning to develop and  
share best practice.**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

GREAT TEACHING – THE CHALLENGE.....	3
DEVELOPING GREAT TEACHING AT SCIE.....	4
NURTURING GREAT TEACHING ONLINE.....	4
BUILDING ENGAGEMENT WITH ONLINE.....	5
AN ONLINE, BESPOKE MODULE FOR GREAT TEACHING AT SCIE .....	7
ABOUT THE AUTHOR.....	8



## GREAT TEACHING – THE CHALLENGE

The challenge for all leaders and all teachers, in every school across the world is to always be improving the quality of learning and teaching. As Dylan Wiliam points out, this is '*not because they are not good enough but because they can always be even better*'.

That's precisely the challenge that Richard Driscoll is working on at the Shenzhen College of International Education (SCIE), where, in his role as Academic Deputy Principal, he is responsible for stimulating and promoting great learning and teaching at SCIE.

Much has already been achieved at SCIE - it's a great school! Richard knows that effective professional learning focused on great teaching is pivotal to continue and grow that success.



## DEVELOPING GREAT TEACHING AT SCIE

Richard is an advocate for professional learning both online and face to face. He understands how online learning can be effective in the context of an international school.

Richard has worked with KAA Online to develop a bespoke online module for his school that focusses on great teaching – building on the work the school has already done on great learning.

He recognises that the online module is a starting point, a catalyst for ideas, questions, inquiries by teachers and leaders in his school.

## NURTURING GREAT TEACHING ONLINE

Working with Jayne Bennion at KAA Online, the intent was to capture key messages about what SCIE hold dear in terms of what they want for their students, add in research evidence and reflective questions to stimulate and promote professional dialogue about what great teaching looks like at SCIE.

One of the most powerful ways to start the discussion about great teaching is of course, to ask the students!

We did just that at SCIE and there are film clips in the module of familiar faces (SCIE's very own students) explaining what they think is important for great teaching. They give all of us food for thought.

As we developed the content, we realised how useful the module will be for engaging new and returning staff at the start of the school year. So, staff have been engaging with the module online (taking under 2 hours) as term starts, meaning that the in-person induction programme can dig deeper to

explore questions and additional ideas that all teachers bring with them. They immediately have common ground to discuss.

The module's forums have really helped to start the process of getting to know new teachers joining SCIE this year.

We asked each person to introduce themselves on the forum by answering one or two of the following questions:

- ➡ Who was your favourite teacher and why?
- ➡ What are you most proud of in your career? Why?
- ➡ What top tip would you give for great teaching?
- ➡ What was the best professional learning you ever did? Tell us why!

## BUILDING ENGAGEMENT WITH ONLINE

It was interesting to note that the vast majority of people talked about at least one of their favourite teachers, and many had multiple 'favourites'!

This goes to show what a powerful influence all teachers have on their students.

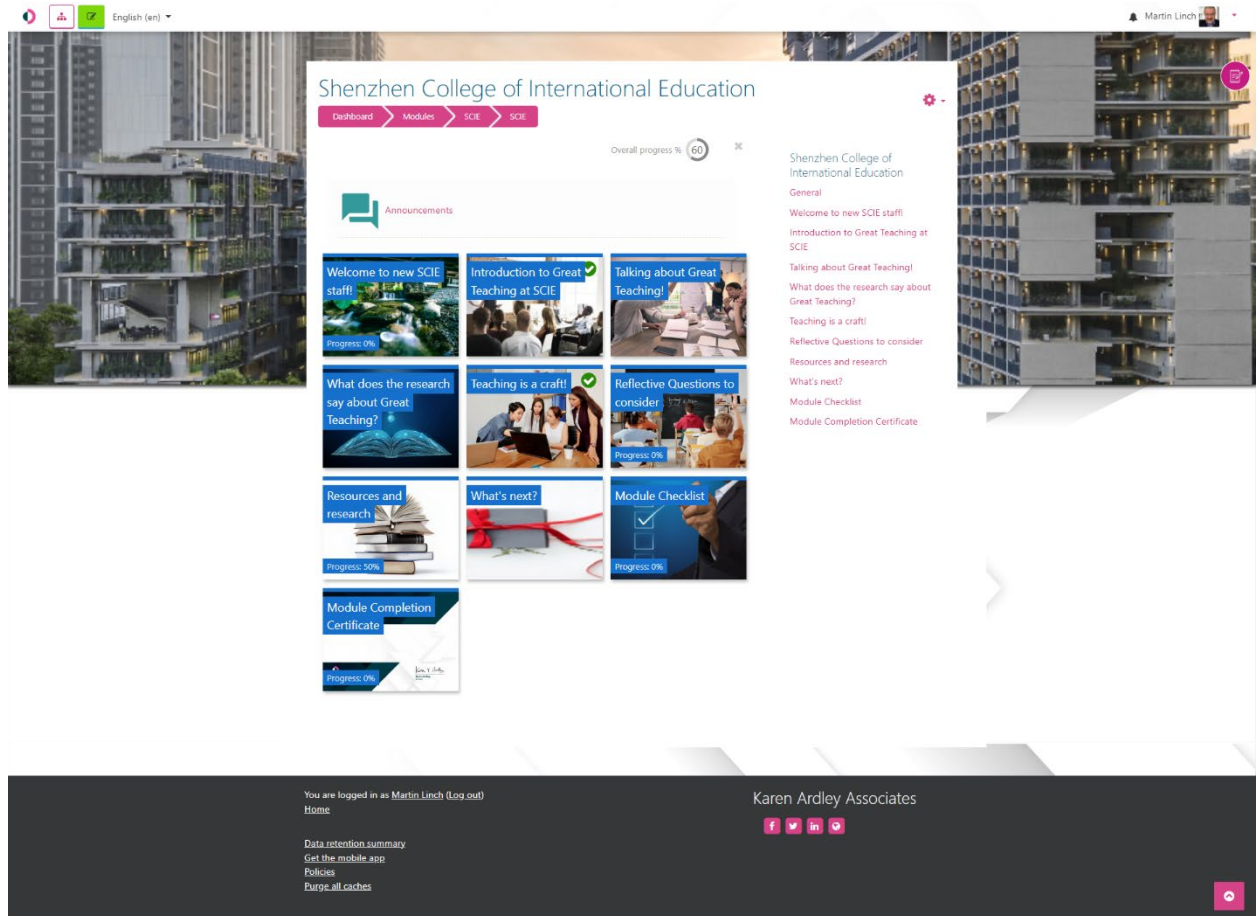
Posts to the forum included these lovely comments from teachers new to SCIE:

- ➡ I'm already feeling like I'm a part of a massive family!
- ➡ As an early-career-teacher, there is a lot for me to learn, but luckily, I have great teachers all around me here in SCIE and I am looking forward to working with you all!

And, typical of the comments made about favourite teachers ...

- ➡ In my time as a student, I've had many wonderful teachers. But what all of them had in common was their kindness. They wanted to know who I was and how I could be developed.
- ➡ I met my favourite teacher, professor Alessio Corti, in my first year at Imperial College. The great thing about him is that he knows when to stop talking and let the students start thinking and exploring by themselves.
- ➡ This is very tricky question and I narrowed it down to two... of my favourite teachers: I have chosen Mr Rayner my A level Economics teacher because his lessons incorporated so many of the features of great teaching that this module has introduced. His lessons were always engaging, and he had a great passion for his subject as well as having assessment for learning as integral to his lessons.
- ➡ I also remember his love of dad jokes and have been able to steal some of these!

# AN ONLINE, BESPOKE MODULE FOR GREAT TEACHING AT SCIE



This bespoke module is designed to be a cumulative process; the content will grow and develop as teachers and leaders at SCIE continue their drive to become even better.

The intention is to add materials and evidence developed within the school – sharing SCIE teacher's learning with other SCIE teachers.

The KAA online module is one small, but important, part of the bigger picture of effective continuous professional learning at SCIE.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Jayne Bennion is a Director at KAA Online and a director with our sister company, Karen Ardley Associates, where she works with educators across the globe.

Jayne is an educator with experience and expertise as a teacher, school leader and senior adviser with schools in the UK and internationally.

She has designed and facilitated a range of exceptional professional learning both online and in person and has a proven track record in making a positive and sustainable difference.

Jayne has successfully undertaken several high-level roles including;

- ➡ Director of Quality Assurance with Nord Anglia Education
- ➡ Founding Head of the Learning and Assessment Service in Birmingham
- ➡ Curriculum Adviser with QCDA leading the development of the professional learning materials for the proposed primary national curriculum.

Most recently as a Director at Karen Ardley Associates Jayne has been thoroughly enjoying working with schools in England and internationally to build capacity to lead, evaluate and design learning. She is also a very proud Chair of Governors for a school in Abingdon in Oxfordshire and also a trained BSO inspector and COBIS Peer Evaluator.