



## Do schools kill creativity?



In training students to pass exams it is all too easy to standardise the process of tackling problems, to lay down a set of procedures to follow that lead to an answer that will gain the most credit in an assessment. Our most successful students by this measure will be those that are able to grasp these systems readily and therefore perform well in tests.

### Is this enough?

Definitely not. We are also preparing our students for a world without a mark scheme and assessment objectives, where innovation and creativity are vital skills.

### What are we doing in school?

Broadly speaking, we cannot teach creativity. However, we **can** teach a mindset that is receptive to new ideas. To do this, we aim to:

- Acknowledge that innovation is not a single creative moment but a collaboration of ideas. In class, conversation and dialogue are important parts of innovation.
- Establish an atmosphere of trust where students feel safe to share creative thoughts. Fear of embarrassment limits creativity.
- Make innovation a part of every day. Asking the question “How could this be done differently?” is a helpful start point.
- Talk to students about their creative experiences in class and find out if we can do more. All tutor groups have been invited to discuss when they have been asked to approach a task creatively and what they have gained from this.

### What can you do?

Tell us how innovation and creativity have helped you in your work. Can you give us examples of when you have needed creativity to solve problems or succeed? Perhaps you work with young graduates and have a viewpoint on whether they have the skills in place to succeed in a world of accelerated change. Share your experiences with us and we can help students make the connection between the concept and the workplace.

Email me ([vbeckley@ags.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:vbeckley@ags.bucks.sch.uk)) or Gurdeep Singh, Assistant Head ([gsingh@ags.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:gsingh@ags.bucks.sch.uk))

### AGS LEARNER ON THE WEBSITE: WHAT INFORMATION WOULD YOU LIKE?

The introduction of AGS LEARNER last September enabled us to develop the connection between the learning that students experience in school and the skills that they will need to show in a competitive workplace. We want parents to feel more involved in that process and to create a space on the website where they can find out about the ways that their sons are learning in school.

#### What kinds of information or advice would **you** find useful?

Email us with any ideas you have – however brief – so that we can continue to work together to prepare your sons for their learning in school and beyond. ([vbeckley@ags.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:vbeckley@ags.bucks.sch.uk) or [gsingh@ags.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:gsingh@ags.bucks.sch.uk))