

## Neil James Commons

### Personal Resume

In my classroom you would expect to see a range of teaching and learning styles in action with inquiry based learning at its heart. Information technology is integrated throughout; this blends with and enhances the teaching and learning of the required skills. In my high school classes an expectation of mastery is explicitly present alongside the use of reverse learning/flipped classroom. Beyond the classroom I act as a pedagogical leader – particularly in the MYP – developing my peers understanding so the programme is more effectively implemented across the school.



### Personal Details

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### Higher Education

#### **2011-2014 State University New York (SUNY), USA – Multidisciplinary Masters**

Through the International Graduate Programme for Educators this has included topics on teaching application, IT integration, curriculum development and leadership skills.

#### **2002 – 2003 Institute of Education, London, UK– Secondary Science (Physics) PGCE**

Developing the skills to achieve qualified teacher status as a secondary science-teaching specialist. Professional development studies included an evidence based enquiry into the benefits of after school activities for the teacher.

#### **1995 - 1999 University of Leeds – Astrophysics Master's Degree**

A 2:1 Master's Degree in Physics with Astrophysics (Europe) with special study in star formation and high-energy cosmic rays. This included a 6-month research project on UC HII regions at the Observatoire de Marseille, France.

### Work Experience

#### **August 2013 to present – Northbridge International School of Cambodia, Phnom Penh**

Teaching IB Diploma Physics, MYP Science and grade 9 pastoral teacher. Leading science department in moderation, curriculum development and equipment procurement. Introducing after school student support in the form of the "learning space" and leading a integrated approaches to learning programme. Outside the classroom, responsibilities include coaching football and leading Mission In Action (MIA) trips.

#### **August 2006 to July 2013 – New International School of Thailand, Bangkok**

Teaching IB Diploma Physics, MYP Science, MYP Mathematics, Elementary Exceptional Learners Science programme and the Mad Scientist.

#### **Additional points of responsibility**

- 1) House Coordinator – Whilst responsible for Blue House, I developed opportunities to empower students and was the driving force behind our innovative i-Choice programme.
- 2) MYP Steering Committee Member – Within this team I supported the introduction of MYP unit plans and developed the school area of interaction scope and sequences.
- 3) New Faculty Orientation Coordinator – Supporting new staff with their transition to both a new school and a new culture.
- 4) Week on the Wild Side (WOWS) trip organiser - Leading trekking, biking and rafting expeditions at all levels of the International Award for Young People

#### **November 2010 to present – IBO**

MYP Science monitor and moderator, providing feedback to improve the application of the programme.

## **February 2005 to July 2006 – Eastbury School, Barking & Dagenham LEA, UK**

Head of Physics co-ordinating the A and AS-Level course and overseeing Physics teaching throughout the secondary curriculum.

## **July 2003 to February 2005 – Eastbury School, Barking & Dagenham LEA, UK**

A newly qualified Science specialist teaching general science at Key Stages Three and Four as well as specialising in Physics at AS and A-level.

## **August 2000 to Nov 2001 - Operations Dept., Universal Pictures, London**

Business Systems Co-ordinator involved in researching and maintaining data stored within the key information system including development and quality control of integrated systems.

### **Presentations/ Workshops**

<b>Presentation title</b>	<b>Location - Date</b>
Regional Workshop: MYP Sciences (English C2)	Taejon Christian IS, Seoul, South Korea – October 2014
InSchool Workshop: Delivering the MYP (English)	K. International School Tokyo in Japan – September 2014
InSchool workshop: MYP Launching the MYP	Arau, Perlis, Malaysia – August 2014
Regional workshop MYP Science (English C1)	Kula Lumpur, Malaysia – June 2014
Trials and tribulations of a flipped classroom	ASB Unplugged 2012, Mumbai
Trials and tribulations of a flipped classroom	Bangkok Teachers Network Conference 2011
Learning styles and the flipped classroom	NIST Secondary Back to School Night 2011
The Human Ingenuity Challenge	Bangkok Teachers Network Conference 2010
Promoting science with middle year challenges	Bangkok Teachers Network Conference 2010

### **Recent Additional Training Courses**

<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Provided By</b>	<b>Date (s)</b>
IB Physics Subject Specific Seminar (Cat 3)	IBO in Bangkok	March 2014
IB Workshop Leader training	IBO in Chang Mai	Oct 2013
Differentiation	The Powell's	
Emergency First Responder (Most recent training)	Emergency First Response	Aug 2012
Certificate Overseas Technology And Information Literacy (COTAIL)	Jeff Utecht via SUNY	April 2010 – May 2012
MYP Assessment, Recording, Reporting	IBO online	Aug – Sept 2010
Professional Mentoring	Paul Ginnis	Feb 2010
Differentiation	The Powell's	Sept 2009
Supporting Student Inquiry – Sciences	IBO online	Sept – Oct 2009
Teacher's Convention – Assessment	IBO in Singapore	March 2009
Level 2 MYP Workshop – Science	IBO in Bangkok	Sept 2007
Level 2/3 DP Workshop – Physics	IBO in Sydney	April 2007
EARCOS Conference Bangkok	EARCOS	March 2007

### **Additional Voluntary Roles**

#### **Scouting**

**(1999 – to 2007)**

As a Venture Scout Leader I supported young people develop leadership skills and take part in adventurous activities. As the PR Manager for Brownsea Island, during the World Jamboree in 2007, I managed international coverage across all mediums with a professional and voluntary team; achieving Google News top ten worldwide stories. As the national Young Spokesperson Co-ordinator, I developed a training program designed to empower young people with the skills to promote Scouting to the media. I was also involved in the worldwide policy introduction and related training the for the Europe and Asia regions

#### **Documentary Producer/ Presenter**

**(1999 – 2000)**

Documenting and highlight the effects of third world debt by interviewing those impacted from Vice-Presidents to schoolteachers from across West Africa. This educational documentary benefitted the charity Jubilee 2000.