

September 2009

Dear Parents

I attach a letter from Dr Catherine McCall, a former Academy parent, about Philosophy tuition which she is proposing to offer Prep school children after school in this 2009/10 session. The rigorous analytical thinking which Philosophy develops can impact very positively on other areas of pupils' work and lives, so we are glad to provide a classroom at The Academy to enable this course to take place.

Dr McCall BA Hons MA MSc TEFL PhD FRSA is President of Stichting SOPHIA: The European Foundation for doing Philosophy with Children, Director of EPIC and philosophy, Consultant for East Renfrewshire Department of Education. Initially trained as a philosopher and a psychologist, Dr McCall spent four years working in theatre in the West End of London before helping pioneer practical philosophy in the UK.

Whilst working as a Professor in Montclair, USA, she introduced Philosophy for Children, Nelson's Socratic Method and Philosophical Inquiry to the UK, France and Spain through a series of International Training Workshops in 1985/86.

In 1990 the BBC documentary Socrates for Six Year Olds, featuring Dr McCall's Philosophical Inquiry method with young children and Professor Lipman's P4C method with teenagers in the USA, was broadcast in the UK, USA and other countries. The documentary became the inspiration for a generation of Philosophy for children practitioners. In 1991 Dr McCall created the postgraduate M.Phil and PhD degree courses in Philosophical Inquiry (PI) at the University of Glasgow.

A Consultant with Education Authorities, businesses and NHS Health Trusts, she currently trains UK Philosophy for Children teacher-trainers and teaches PI at the University of Strathclyde.

If you are interested in your child attending one of these classes, please complete the pro-forma at the bottom of the attached letter and return by email to Dr McCall or hand in to the Prep School Reception..

Yours sincerely

A M BROOKE
Head of Preparatory School