

## Visual Thinking Residencies

Oliver West, Visual Thinking Specialist, has developed alternative learning methods and study skills to introduce learners to visual thinking techniques which can allow them to realise their full learning potential.

Over the last twelve years Oliver has developed 'Footnotes', a portfolio of visual thinking strategies for learning and personal development. These techniques have proved to be of benefit to those who have recognised that they think in visual terms. 'Footnotes' has also helped certain individuals to discover that they are predominantly visual thinkers or that they would benefit from thinking more visually.



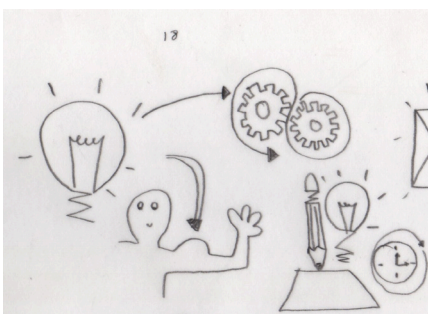
## Background

Within our society, educational institutions and places of work, we are often made aware that methodologies and benchmarks may not always accommodate all the needs of each individual. Information is often presented in a linear, lexical way on the assumption that this method of communication is universally effective. As a consequence, there are often individuals who feel marginalised because of differences in their social, cultural and educational experiences or under challenged in their learning experience.

For a number of reasons a large proportion of the population have, or develop, a bias towards creative, multi-layered and visual ways of thinking. They find certain social systems and workplace environments unaccommodating and are challenged by the demand on them to engage with the linear environment that surrounds them. They have to learn how to meet these challenges and to process information in their own personalized way.

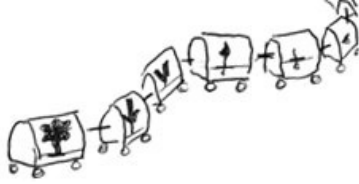


The strategy used in the Footnotes programme has been used by Oliver over a period of twelve years. As a chronic dyslexic learner himself he has developed this technique to give himself, and now other individuals the freedom to think in a personalised way and to communicate when required in a linear way. Using his methods, visual creativity and self-confidence are allowed to flourish without the constraints of linear logic.



The techniques used by Oliver have many applications, but they focus on enabling children and adults alike to think visually and to assimilate, sequence, store, and recall information in their own way. This allows breakthroughs in ability to spell, reading, personal management, understanding and processing of memory and emotions. This accumulative raft of strategies is applicable in all areas of life. By using and identifying personal strategies and preferences new talents may emerge and the individual may find ways to succeed in the classroom, work and beyond. The techniques have proved to be of particular benefit to those students who think primarily in a non-linear way; but they have also helped to improve learning strategies and performance for a range of other students.

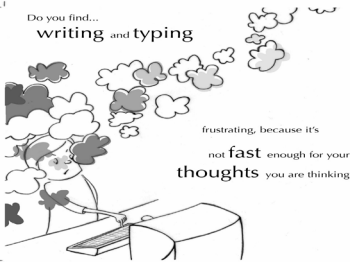




Do you feel all your thoughts **hit together**  
leaving you unsure what to **think** about?



Do you find...  
**writing and typing**



frustrating, because it's  
not **fast** enough for your  
thoughts you are thinking.

Do you **over**  
**complicate** things  
that are asked of you?



Do you think of  
lots of things **at once?**



Do you get to the **top** of the stairs...



...and **forget why**  
you where going up?

## The Visual Thinking Programme can be used to develop skills in the following areas

- Personal management skills
- Problem solving strategies for thought processing and communication
- Collating ideas and information using 'sketchbook wallet' memory triggers
- Sketchbooks & presentation preparation
- Note-taking strategies
- Story/Essay planning and structuring
- Spelling strategies
- Reading strategies
- Research techniques
- Time management techniques
- Strategies for short and long-term memory-retention
- Innovative and entrepreneurial planning

## The Programme

The Footnotes technique makes for an ideal alternative learning tool that changes the typical classroom environment into a play ground for exploring new ways of thinking and learning. It allows individuals to flourish and has a unique edge in allowing young entrepreneurs to discover themselves and develop new found skills. Through the flexibility of learning through visual terms the individual benefits from a heightened awareness of the self.

The Visual Thinking Residency programme will encourage all pupils, staff and parents alike to realize and develop their potential as visual thinkers. Oliver's strategy is an effective tool in changing behavioural and thought processes as well as learning strategies. The emphasis of the programme is to encourage innovative thinking and to develop entrepreneurial skills that will help lead individuals towards a promising future and change horizons for others who may have become stagnant in their learning and development.

The programme generates energy and renewed enthusiasm for learning and helps inspire individuals in areas old and new. Aspirations change and communication skills grow as individuals and groups discover more about their preferred styles of learning and personality type.

The programme is effective with pupils of all ages and levels and makes learning exciting. It challenges traditional systems and is illuminating in that it meets the needs of the younger generation, and introduces the older generation to a world where visual learning is ever more prevalent.

The programme can be tailored to suit a specific subject area depending on the individual or school's requirement. The strategy is a cost effective tool for learning and requires nothing more in the initial stages that a sheet of A4 paper.

## Sample Workshop Subjects

Background – thought behind the technique and its development

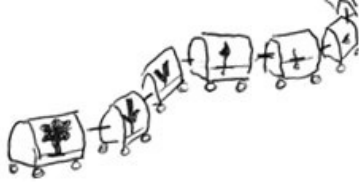
Demonstrate the "easy to use" techniques

Discuss and advise on how to use the Footnotes technique

Discuss why the Footnotes technique is innovative and how and why it enhances traditional learning methods

Identifying personalised ways of innovative learning

Developing entrepreneurial skills that relate to any career requirement



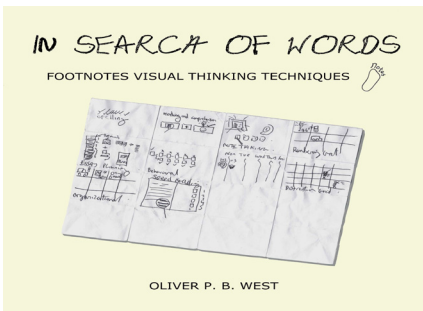
## Oliver West CV

Oliver currently works within a variety of settings in the UK and abroad in collaboration with education authorities, schools, colleges, corporate organisations, businesses and individual clients. He is also a lecturer at University College Falmouth, but has broad experience of working with early years, primary, middle and high school students internationally.

Oliver has written and published a book 'In Search of Words - The Footnotes Strategy'. This can be purchased online at [www.oliverwest.net](http://www.oliverwest.net).

Oliver is also a practising artist exhibiting and selling his works of art internationally.

For further information on Oliver's work please visit his websites at [www.oliverwestfootnotes.com](http://www.oliverwestfootnotes.com)



## Example Costs

Fees for Oliver West based on

- 1 days INSET workshop day £575
- Class based workshop day followed by an 90 minute INSET £ 575
- Class based workshop day £ 475
- Added travel time and expenses to include accommodation
- Optional additional travel costs for student support from University College of Falmouth (to be arranged)

It has regularly proved useful for schools to invite individual students or a group of students who are already usefully using the Footnotes strategy to accompany Oliver in the workshops. Oliver can arrange for specially selected students from University College of Falmouth to join him on a residency. The students will be selected on the basis of their areas of specialism. A family will be asked to host the student(s) who will provide an opportunity for the International School students to practise the English language with their guest.



## Post programme arrangements

In the term following the workshop, it is recommended that a follow up visit to the school takes place so that students and colleagues who have benefited from the programme can maintain the momentum of their new learning techniques. By forming a Mentor group individual strategies can be further developed and further training can be given in the techniques allowing individuals to add to current systems of use. This visit may last from 2-4 days dependent upon needs.

At the same time the school may be invited to appoint a Visual Thinking mentor. This could be one of the students who provided support at the workshops, and this would be agreed with, and arranged by Oliver. A research report would be produced by the mentor, thus providing a record for the school and a reference for the Footnotes Visual Thinking Programme.

