

### **Creativity Within Constraints: the vital importance of developing students' critical thinking**

This talk explores how educators can foster critical, independent thinking—even within the often rigid structures we find ourselves working in such as those of policy, curriculum and assessment. It will explore what creativity is at its core and posits that creativity isn't just about art—it's about questioning, risk-taking, and reimagining the purpose of education. Drawing on theory and classroom practice, we'll look at how English Language teachers can empower learners not just to succeed in exams, but to think deeply, creatively and participate meaningfully in society.