

## **Spotlight On - Andy Jones Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Learning and Education**

Andy Jones is a Pro-Vice-Chancellor with a new title for 'Learning and Education' as well as Dean of the Faculty of Education, a role he has held since 2007. He sees his PVC role as a broad remit to support the development of learning approaches across the University as well as to develop educational links between the university and local communities. He has a key focus on furthering links and activities in the Hulme area in preparation for the faculties of Education and Health, Psychology and Social Care moving to the, 'huge and innovative', Birley Fields campus by September 2014. Andy's focus on Hulme is part of the MMU and Manchester City Council mission to ensure young people and community residents are able to access the building and its many opportunities when in situ.



In the University, Andy will continue to support the excellent work of central teams such as CELT, IT, and Learning Technologies. He wishes to promote and champion the development of our teaching and learning pedagogies, both in the interaction with students during teaching sessions as well as via the increasingly sophisticated technological facilities available. A key challenge is to maximise the practice of teaching for the benefit of students by supporting the creation of first-rate e-learning/teaching facilities but, importantly, to enable all staff to use these to maximum effect. He feels inspired and amazed at the speed of technological change in educational practice and recognises that, in a very large university with many thousands of staff and students, it is an on-going challenge to update staff and learning resources at the pace 21<sup>st</sup> Century students expect. Andy is convinced, though, that our human and social interactions with students will always be the most important and the 'socio-collaborative' nature of learning will remain crucial in determining the quality of a university's educational practice, irrespective of the technologies which continue to support our work. He acknowledges that he, 'is bound to think like that', as a drama-in-education practitioner with an engrained belief in the value of learning through creative processes and human interaction.

A graduate in Drama and Theatre Arts of the University of Birmingham, Andy began as an actor before his interests in teaching were developed via theatre-in-education experience. He gained a PGCE at Manchester Polytechnic before teaching performing arts and English. His MPhil focused on group devised theatre forms and processes. Andy has worked extensively as a

teacher trainer, in-service tutor and consultant across all phases of education, and held a range of senior posts including that of Deputy Director of the Institute of Education.

He has contributed to books and websites on drama-in-education methodologies, written for government documentation on schools' curricular approaches to developing speaking and listening and remains fascinated by the application of drama pedagogy for learning across the curriculum. His work as a consultant to schools, local authorities, other universities and government agencies, has taken him all around the UK and to Israel, China, the Netherlands, Dubai and the USA.

Andy Jones is currently Vice Chair of the UK's Universities Council for the Education of Teachers (UCET), an invited 'Leading Thinker' and keynote speaker for the National Education Trust, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and an Honorary Fellow of the Institute of Administrative Management. He is also a trustee of the Brightside Trust, a national charity that supports young people into higher education and a member of National Drama.