

November 2021

## Contact Us

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# A message from our Director

*When I ..... , I am forever Grateful*

A very warm welcome to all the Education community as we begin to resume our face to face teaching with the students.

*Please find below a few quotes which may assist you to reflect on the important things in life:*

“Start each day with a positive thought and a grateful heart.”

– Roy T. Bennett, The Light in the Heart

“Great things happen to those who don't stop believing, trying, learning, and being grateful.”

– Roy T. Bennett, The Light in the Heart

“Be thankful for everything that happens in your life; it's all an experience.”

– Roy T. Bennett

“Do not spoil what you have by desiring what you have not; remember that what you now have was once among the things you only hoped for.”

– Epicurus

“We can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or rejoice because thorns have roses.”

– Alphonse Karr, A Tour Round My Garden

“Sometimes life knocks you on your ass... get up, get up, get up!!! Happiness is not the absence of problems, it's the ability to deal with them.”

– Steve Maraboli, Life, the Truth, and Being Free

“True forgiveness is when you can say, "Thank you for that experience.”

– Oprah Winfrey

“True happiness is to enjoy the present, without anxious dependence upon the future, not to amuse ourselves with either hopes or fears but to rest satisfied with what we have, which is sufficient, for he that is so wants nothing. The greatest blessings of mankind are within us and within our reach. A wise man is content with his lot, whatever it may be, without wishing for what he has not.”

– Seneca

“Cultivate the habit of being grateful for every good thing that comes to you, and to give thanks continuously. And because all things have contributed to your advancement, you should include all things in your gratitude.”

– Ralph Waldo Emerson

“Always remember people who have helped you along the way, and don’t forget to lift someone up.”

– Roy T. Bennett, The Light in the Heart

“At the end of the day, let there be no excuses, no explanations, no regrets.”

– Steve Maraboli, Life, the Truth, and Being Free

“Acknowledging the good that you already have in your life is the foundation for all abundance.”

*May Term 4 be filled with oodles of Joy and Self-Reflection.*

*Stay well,*

*Rick Vagnoni  
Director  
Critical Agendas*

Ron Thomas



Ron Thomas Ron has taught VCE English and literature for 20 years.

His company, Speak With Power, trains student speakers – primary and secondary – in all states of Australia and Bangkok.

He has been running teacher professional development in oral communication across Australia for nearly a decade and uses Drama skills to enhance presentation skills.

Ron was commissioned to write the speech that won the NSW Junior Championships.

He is a debating trainer and has twice coached teams to the DAV Grand Final.

Ron is a Gold Level Toastmaster and winner of District Humorous Speaking Championships.

His seminars are always highly interactive, active and fun.

From the Presenters Desk

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### Longing for Face to Face – Even Mask to Mask

Although it has been wonderful running seminars on-line, and running many more due to the interstate links, I think any teacher just wants the closeness of physical interaction.

Especially running Drama, Debating and Gifted seminars a Breakout Room just doesn't equal a group of teachers working together. I miss the interaction, the laughter and the informality. I also miss a great training room and not having to make my own coffee and lunch.

Next year it will be great to see faces bigger than postage stamps, bodies below shoulders and groups larger than two or three. I think with a live audience I will still not believe it when people don't freeze when talking or suddenly break into pixels or are replaced by a picture of a dog! Who knows people may even turn up not wearing trakkie dacks and moccies. We may even be in the same time zone.

As a Presenter I am glad to have been able to provide the Professional Development teachers need and have been amazed by the positive feedback - even doing Drama on Zoom. We have all had to adapt and will do so for the rest of the year and maybe longer. But hopefully we may all go regional even interstate and possibly international for a non-zoom holiday!

Ron is offering the following sessions in Term 4, 2021

- 16/11/2021 [Brilliant Strategies to Engage and Develop Yrs 7 – 10 English](#)
- 19/11/2021 [How to Inspire The Best Writing: fiction, non-fiction; poetic & persuasive](#)
- 30/11/2021 [Make 2022's Production the best yet](#)
- 03/12/2021 [Set your debaters up to be winners in '22](#)
- 13/12/2021 [Make 2022 the best for your Gifted and Talented](#)
- 14/12/2021 [Hit the stage running in Drama in '22](#)

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## Upcoming November Webinars

- 04/11/2021 [Tech tools for Listening and Speaking skill development in Languages](#)
- 04/11/2021 [Data Driven Mental Health](#)
- 05/11/2021 [Unlocking Autism in Mainstream Classrooms](#)
- 05/11/2021 [Out-of-field Geography teaching](#)
- 08/11/2021 [Making Maths Dyslexia Friendly](#)
- 09/11/2021 [Girls Versus Confidence](#)
- 09/11/2021 [Working with video in the Language classroom](#)
- 10/11/2021 [How to differentiate your class using effective feedback](#)
- 10/11/2021 [Dyslexia - Practical Skills and Ideas to use in the classroom](#)
- 11/11/2021 [Creating and Maintaining Positive Student Behaviour now and in 2022](#)
- 11/11/2021 [Advancing the progress of students with Diverse Needs](#)
- 12/11/2021 [Seven Skills of Effective Teachers](#)
- 12/11/2021 [Differentiators Mindset for Difficult to Teach Classes](#)
- 15/11/2021 [Strategies to Overcome Student and Teacher Stress](#)
- 15/11/2021 [Creating Powerful Rubrics](#)
- 16/11/2021 [Systematic Synthetic Phonics](#)
- 16/11/2021 [Brilliant Strategies to Engage and Develop Yrs 7 – 10 English](#)
- 17/11/2021 [Emotional Intelligence: The Secret to Superior Leadership](#)
- 17/11/2021 [The Year 7 Teachers Essentials](#)
- 18/11/2021 [Trauma Informed Classrooms](#)
- 18/11/2021 [Masterful Leadership Communication](#)
- 19/11/2021 [Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorder \(ASD\)](#)
- 19/11/2021 [Teaching Complex, Hard to Reach, Disinterested and Disruptive Students](#)
- 19/11/2021 [How to Inspire The Best Writing: fiction, non-fiction; poetic and persuasive](#)
- 22/11/2021 [How to be an effective leader in schools](#)
- 24/11/2021 [Creating Purposeful Individual Education Plans - Part 1](#)
- 24/11/2021 [How to proactively manage the workload of School Administration Staff](#)
- 25/11/2021 [Managing Difficult Conversations - how to discuss what matters](#)
- 25/11/2021 [Supporting EAL students in mainstream Secondary classes](#)
- 26/11/2021 [Coaching the Complex Boys in your Class](#)
- 26/11/2021 [Creating Purposeful Individual Education Plans - Part 2](#)
- 29/11/2021 [Teaching Complex, Hard to Reach, Disinterested and Disruptive Students](#)
- 30/11/2021 [Building Classroom Discipline: What they didn't tell you at college](#)
- 30/11/2021 [Make 2022s' Production the best yet](#)

You can register at [www.criticalagendas.com.au](http://www.criticalagendas.com.au)