

# BOOK REVIEWS

All books have been reviewed by **DR ANNE DAVIS**, who has worked as a sixth-form maths teacher and head of maths in south-east England. She is also a private tutor, teaching maths, chemistry and physics, specialising in the 16+ age group. She is a cycling and kayaking coach, with experience of coaching disabled athletes



## ACROSS THE SPECTRUM: A JOURNEY TOWARDS UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM

By Francine Brower and Keith MacKenzie Cox  
Bloomsbury, 2021

The back cover for this book has a headline: 'If you think you understand how autism presents, think again.' It sucked me right in as I have wished on numerous times that someone would publish an account to debunk the 'Rain Man' stereotype of autism.

The authors have both previously worked as headteachers in schools specialising in educating autistic young people. Aimed at those working in both mainstream and specialist organisations, this book covers a range of everyday areas impacted by autism, including sensory differences, communication, behaviour and socialisation. Real-life case studies are used as examples, which are rather heart-warming at times and described sympathetically.

I was initially disappointed by the very small section on autism in girls and a discussion on the differences in the genders. But it is clear from the book as a whole that the condition is being described in terms of its presentations and not stereotypes applied to young people in general. And this is all based on the very real experience of these experts in their field.

## HOMEWORK WITH IMPACT

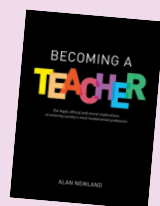
By Andrew B Jones  
Routledge, 2022

Andrew Jones is an experienced secondary teacher and a Founding Fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching. Although this book is primarily aimed at schoolteachers, it contains important development points for teachers in further education as well.

Starting with a review of the debate around homework, the author supports its use and asserts his belief in a rigorous homework programme. He draws on references to academic studies that justify the impact of homework on learning and achievement, backed up by current evidence from cognitive psychology on retrieval practice, spacing and interleaving to the setting of homework.

This book also addresses which types of homework and their content have the most positive impact on learning, outlining practical ideas, strategies and activities that teachers can implement, trial and adopt in their own classrooms. It also explores how organisations can support learners with homework as well as the importance of having a crystal-clear homework policy.

Feedback and assessment of homework for educators and learners are also covered, including an overview of how teachers can effectively check homework.



## BECOMING A TEACHER

By Alan Newland  
Crown House Publishing, 2021

Although this book is a sizeable read on first impression, weighing in at 361 pages, it is very well presented and an initial flick through will make you want to read it if you have any interest in the teaching profession.

It is broken down into six chapters, defining teaching and exploring the legal, ethical and moral challenges facing the profession today. It features a constructive examination of the Teachers' Standards and shares a series of illustrative scenarios and responses that will equip teachers to deal with some of the contentious and sensitive issues that they are likely to encounter.

The author also uses examples from his own career to explain and highlight dilemmas faced by teachers on a regular basis. He is honest about where he's made mistakes in his career, which is refreshing and reassuring. And he is not afraid to explore some controversial issues along the way.

This book is relevant to all educators in today's classrooms and lecture theatres, including trainee teachers but also tutors, lecturers, mentors and CPD leads. It also includes useful appendices, featuring codes for professional practice, useful links and resources, and extended discussion of issues around spiritual, moral, social and cultural education.

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→ InTuition readers receive a 20% discount on this book with the code **APR20** at [routledge.com](https://routledge.com) (valid until 30 January)

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