



TERRY MAHONY **author of PRINCIPLED** **HEADSHIP**

Terry Mahony's fascination with the night sky led him to begin his professional life undertaking research with a university astronomy group.

From there he moved into scientific publishing in Amsterdam. Returning to England he began teaching and, with a solid base of fourteen years in the classroom, joined his local education authority as a trainer and adviser on continuing professional development for school staff. Now the authority's education training manager, Terry runs their in-house training programme as a commercial enterprise. His commitment to schools was born in the shadow of Aberfan. A passionate believer in the intrinsic worth of all those who support children's learning, he describes his professional role in life as that of holding a mirror up to everyone working in our schools, to reflect back to them their own magnificence. The discomfort of the last decade in education prompted

Terry to train as a mediator to assist teachers in the resolution of the personal professional problems that they brought to his courses. This concern for healthy teachers in healthy schools is now extending his interest to the wider issues of organisational health and its maintenance and improvement.

The creation of a national professional qualification for headteachers gave Terry his first opportunity to take the key ideas of NLP into a training programme for the next generation of school leaders. His experience of the training currently being offered to them prompted him to consider alternative approaches to headteacher development. Combined with his Celtic love of storytelling, it became the springboard for his book. Unsurprisingly, his first interest in all things astronomical appears as the book's metaphoric theme. His goal is to introduce the applications of NLP and current research on the brain's functioning, into learning in the classroom and into the development of personal excellence in teaching. He believes it should become a key component of all initial teacher training courses – and this is his first New Year's resolution for the millennium!