



Learning Without Borders

nabss

National Association of
British Schools in Spain

48th Annual Conference

SITGES 5 – 8 March 2026

Welcome from the NABSS President



The National Association of British Schools in Spain's 48th annual conference will be held from 5th to 8th March 2026 in Sitges.

The programme will include our annual general meeting, gala dinner and some outstanding keynote speakers. A range of workshops will be provided for teachers and leaders of all phases.

The exhibition room, in which we expect to host over fifty educational resources and services providers, will be, as always, the central hub of the conference.

The chosen venue is the Hotel Meliá Sitges, which provides an excellent location in the beautiful coastal town of Sitges. The gala dinner will be held at a specially chosen external venue.

The full conference programme will be published in due course. In the meantime, here is an overview, and details of the main workshops.

*Adrian Massam
President of NABSS*

Programme

Thursday 5th March

Gala Dinner: Clos la Plana

This year's Gala Dinner will be held in Clos la Plana, just a short drive from Sitges. Clos la Plana is a majestic modernist estate surrounded by vineyards and gardens in the Garraf Natural Park. This venue combines its historic character with the warmth of an exclusive space, ideal for celebrations full of magic and authenticity.



19.15	Buses leave the hotel	
19.45	Welcome Cocktail - Clos la Plana <i>Sponsored by:</i>	
20.45	Gala Dinner - Clos la Plana Guest speaker: His Excellency the British Ambassador to Spain, Sir Alex Ellis	
23.00	Buses return to the hotel	

Friday 6th March

09.15	Registration of School representatives		
Salón Garbí			
09.45	Official opening of Conference		
Salón Garbí			
10.30	Exhibition visit & Coffee break		
Salón Tramuntana			
11.15	Keynote Speaker: Mark Anderson Beyond the Hype: <i>AI, Equity and the Human Purpose of Education</i>		
Salón Garbí			
12.15	NABSS Competition Winners	<i>Sponsored by</i>	
Salón Garbí			
12.30	Keynote Speaker: Martin Illingworth Forget School: <i>Why young people are succeeding on their own terms and what schools can do to avoid being left behind</i>		
Salón Garbí			
13.30	Lunch		
Salón Tramuntana			
16.00	Keynote Workshop: Dr. Alexandra Reed One Step Beyond.....Curriculum Design in the Age of AI		
Salón Garbí			
16.00	Excursion: Guided tour of Bodegas Torres	<i>Sponsored by</i>	
Hotel lobby			
19.00	Cocktail	<i>Sponsored by</i>	
Salón Tramuntana			

Saturday 7th March

09.00 <i>Salón Garbí</i>	Registration for AGM	
09.45 <i>Salón Garbí</i>	AGM (first part)	
11.45 <i>Salón Tramuntana</i>	Exhibition visit & Coffee break	
12.00 <i>Salón Garbí</i>	AGM (second part)	
13.45 <i>Salón Tramuntana</i>	Lunch	
14.30 <i>Salón Garbí</i>	Keynote Speaker: Professor Rupert Wegerif	<i>Sponsored by</i> Cambridge
15.10 <i>Salón Garbí</i>	Keynote Speaker:	<i>Sponsored by</i>
15.50 <i>Salón Garbí</i>	Keynote Speaker:	<i>Sponsored by</i>

Professional Development Workshops 08.45 to 16.00

Workshop 1 <i>Salón Mestral 1-2</i>	Phil Armstrong	The Child at the Heart - Celebrating and Strengthening Teaching and Learning in Early Childhood Education
Workshop 2 <i>Salón Mestral 3-4</i>	Faye Morris	Creating a Positive and Inclusive Classroom Environment
Workshop 3 <i>Salón Llevant 1</i>	Matthew McFall	Developing Curious Classrooms
Workshop 4 <i>Salón Llevant 2</i>	Ian Gilbert	Essential Motivation in the Classroom
Workshop 5 <i>Salón Llevant 3</i>	Dave Harris	Middle Leadership - What Works and Why?
Workshop 6 <i>Salón Llevant 4</i>	Martin Morgan	From Engagement to Empowerment - A Deep Dive into Creating Assessment-Capable Learners
Workshop 7 <i>Salón León</i>	Rose Luckin	AI Leadership for School Managers
Workshop 8 <i>Salón Ávila</i>	Madiha Khan	AI Essentials for Teachers

Sunday 8th March

09.00 <i>Salón Garbí</i>	Safeguarding Panel
10.15 <i>Salón Garbí</i>	Introduction to new NABSS website
10.30 <i>Salón Tramuntana</i>	Exhibition visit & Coffee break
10.45 <i>Salón Garbí</i>	Legal Panel

Professional Development Workshops 09.00 to 11.45

Workshop 1 <i>Salón Mestral 1-2</i>	Phil Armstrong	The Child at the Heart - Celebrating and Strengthening Teaching and Learning in Early Childhood Education
Workshop 2 <i>Salón Mestral 3-4</i>	Faye Morris	Creating a Positive and Inclusive Classroom Environment
Workshop 3 <i>Salón Llevant 1</i>	Matthew McFall	Developing Curious Classrooms
Workshop 4 <i>Salón Llevant 2</i>	Ian Gilbert	Essential Motivation in the Classroom
Workshop 5 <i>Salón Llevant 3</i>	Dave Harris	Middle Leadership - What Works and Why?
Workshop 6 <i>Salón Llevant 4</i>	Martin Morgan	From Engagement to Empowerment - A Deep Dive into Creating Assessment-Capable Learners
Workshop 7 <i>Salón León</i>	Rose Luckin	AI Leadership for School Managers
Workshop 8 <i>Salón Ávila</i>	Madiha Khan	AI Essentials for Teachers

12.00 END OF CONFERENCE

WORKSHOP ONE: THE CHILD AT THE HEART

Celebrating and strengthening teaching and learning in early childhood education

PHIL ARMSTRONG

Workshop 1: Saturday	
08.45 to 09.15	Registration
09.15 to 10.30	Session 1
10.30 to 11.00	Coffee break/visit to exhibition
11.00 to 13.00	Session 2
13.00 to 14.30	Lunch
14.30 to 16.00	Session 3
Workshop 1: Sunday	
09.00 to 10.00	Session 4
10.00 to 10.30	Coffee break/visit to exhibition
10.30 to 11.45	Session 5

Course Overview

Together we will be unlocking the potential of the learning environment and exploring ways to truly bringing it to life as powerful habitat for inspirational learning for all! These workshops will enrich your professional knowledge of outstanding practice and enable you to identify practical ways to shape actions for the future development of your school - ensuring every child has the best possible start to their unique learning journey.

This course is particularly suited to **Early Years Foundation Stage and Year 1 teachers**.

- We will be considering key indicators of quality in the Early Years and Key Stage One and explore how this information can support schools with addressing their current priorities.
- We will look at how key areas of provision can be planned to maximise curriculum links and ensure progression.
- We will also look at ways to meaningfully connect a curriculum that begins in the Early Years; exploring the key foundational knowledge, skills, understanding and learning

behaviours that children develop as they move through the school.

- Throughout the workshops we will also be exploring ways to successfully improve the quality of interactions, improving outcomes across the curriculum for all children: ensuring that adults can be the best possible partners in play and learning.
- Finally, we will reflect on transition from the early years to key stage one and explore examples successful and inspiring high-quality practice.

Phil Armstrong



With a keen eye on the national agenda, policy developments, research and practice, **Phil Armstrong** is a key member of the Strategic Leadership Team at Early Excellence. He leads on educational developments and their implications for schools, offering consultancy and training to schools across England and internationally, focused on school improvement priorities. Previously Phil has worked for over 20yrs across the early years and primary sector, including teacher, leader and headship positions. Phil was also the Head of an integrated early years centre. With a passion for collaborative practice and professional development; Phil has worked in partnership with early years settings, schools, teaching schools and local authorities to develop and deliver personalised programmes to meet their needs.

WORKSHOP TWO: TEACHING FOR THE FUTURE

FAYE MORRIS

Workshop 2: Saturday	
08.45 to 09.15	Registration
09.15 to 11.00	Session 1
11.00 to 11.30	Coffee break/visit to exhibition
11.30 to 13.00	Session 2
13.00 to 14.30	Lunch
14.30 to 16.00	Session 3
Workshop 2: Sunday	
09.00 to 10.00	Session 4
10.00 to 10.30	Coffee break/visit to exhibition
10.30 to 11.45	Session 5

- Understand how we can support pupils to develop self-regulation and metacognitive strategies;
- Implement practical strategies that energise your teaching and inspire your students' learning journey and inspiring high-quality practice.

Faye Morris



Course Overview

Inclusive strategies have the potential to improve outcomes and classroom culture for all learners. So, if inclusive teaching benefits everyone, what do teachers actually need to make it work? . . .

This course, particularly suited to **Primary teachers**, will help participants to:

- Build a shared understanding of how children learn, including children with additional learning needs, and why this matters for inclusive practice;
- Develop an understanding of how you might adapt a scheme of work to support inclusive practice;
- Build a bank of strategies that aim to reduce cognitive load;

As a Teaching and Learning advisor, Faye is responsible for working directly with schools to help them get the best out of the Great Teaching Toolkit. She spends her time delivering training and providing support to school teams, enabling them to develop a programme of professional development that works in their context. As a former primary school teacher and deputy head, Faye is passionate about supporting teachers to strengthen their subject knowledge and pedagogy, empowering them to create engaging, well-sequenced lessons that meet the needs of all learners. She is particularly committed to helping teachers reflect on and refine their practice through evidence-informed approaches, ensuring that professional learning has a direct and positive impact on student outcomes.

WORKSHOP THREE: DEVELOPING CURIOUS CLASSROOMS

DR. MATTHEW MCFALL

Workshop 3: Saturday	
08.45 to 09.15	Registration
09.15 to 11.30	Session 1
11.30 to 12.00	Coffee break/visit to exhibition
12.00 to 13.30	Session 2
13.30 to 15.00	Lunch
15.00 to 16.00	Session 3
Workshop 3: Sunday	
09.00 to 10.00	Session 4
10.00 to 10.30	Coffee break/visit to exhibition
10.30 to 11.45	Session 5

Course Overview

What would be the effect on learning and motivation if you focused less on simply teaching knowledge and more on developing curiosity and wonder in your learners? And, for that matter, what is wonder, what does it feel like to do it and why wonder anyway?

This course is suited to **teachers of all age ranges** and will:

Dr. Matthew McFall



Dr Matthew McFall, Agent of Wonder at Nottingham University's Samworth Academy and Associate of Independent Thinking, has gained acclaim for his work in education that includes the use of Wonder Rooms, Mazes, Labyrinths and Puzzles. Matthew's amazing work - academic research supported by experience in a real-world setting - shows the power of awe, wonder and curiosity to excite and engage even some of our most hard-to-reach children and young people. While most schools would accept that wonder has its place, to actually create a physical space for wonder to happen takes the approach to a whole new level. Hooked on conjuring since the age of four, Matthew's love of the art and craft of magic has led to a range of unusual commissions and inventions. He has worked with a number of august and quirky institutions (from The Royal Society and Cambridge University to Derby Museum and the Anti-Boredom Campaign). In 2016 he was awarded the distinction of being an 'Amazing Person in Education' by the DfE.

WORKSHOP FOUR: ESSENTIAL MOTIVATION IN THE CLASSROOM

IAN GILBERT

Workshop 4: Saturday	
08.45 to 09.15	Registration
09.15 to 11.00	Session 1
11.00 to 11.30	Coffee break/visit to exhibition
11.30 to 13.30	Session 2
13.30 to 15.00	Lunch
15.00 to 16.00	Session 3
Workshop 4: Sunday	
09.00 to 10.00	Session 4
10.00 to 10.30	Coffee break/visit to exhibition
10.30 to 11.45	Session 5

Course Overview

During these workshops, Ian will look at the key factors that affect motivation in the classroom and will look at how learners can be encouraged to develop their independent thinking skills.

Ian Gilbert



This course is suited to **teachers of all age ranges** and will:

- We will

Ian Gilbert is one of the UK's leading educational innovators, speakers and writers with twenty years' experience working with young people and educationalists around the world. He is the founder of Independent Thinking Ltd, the editor of the Independent Thinking Press and the author of a number of titles including *Why Do I Need a Teacher When I've Got Google?*. His book *The Little Book of Thunks* won the first education book award from the Society of Authors for 'an outstanding example of traditionally published non-fiction that enhances teaching and learning'.

WORKSHOP FIVE: MIDDLE LEADERSHIP - WHAT WORKS AND WHY?

DAVE HARRIS

Workshop 5: Saturday	
08.45 to 09.15	Registration
09.15 to 10.30	Session 1
10.30 to 11.00	Coffee break/visit to exhibition
11.00 to 13.00	Session 2
13.00 to 14.30	Lunch
14.30 to 16.00	Session 3
Workshop 5: Sunday	
09.00 to 10.00	Session 4
10.00 to 10.30	Coffee break/visit to exhibition
10.30 to 11.45	Session 5

Course Overview

Dave will bring research and tips from his successful leadership books, including Leadership Dialogues, co-authored with Professor John West-Burnham. The sessions will contain numerous practical tools, extensive discussion, and will help all middle leaders approach their jobs with a heightened sense of optimism.

This course is suitable for **middle leaders of all phases**.

- We will

Dave Harris



Dave Harris has worked in education for over 35 years, as a teacher, leader, headteacher and now as a consultant, speaker and author. He has written 5 books, "Are you dropping the Baton", "Brave Heads", "Leadership Dialogues 1&2" with Professor John West Burnham & Independent Thinking on Transition, as well as contributing to a number of others. He is a sought-after speaker at conferences around the world and is a passionate believer that education needs to adapt to meet the needs of the world we find ourselves in. As well as focusing on the leadership of change, on working across the phases of education he is regularly called upon to help organisations embrace wonder and curiosity in their work. He has a honours degree in Chemistry, a MA in European education and a NPQH. He is President of Willoughby on the Wolds Bowls club and the proud collector of a growing number of daughters!

WORKSHOP SIX:
FROM ENGAGEMENT TO EMPOWERMENT
A Deep Dive into Creating Assessment-Capable Learners
MARTIN MORGAN

Workshop 6: Saturday	
08.45 to 09.15	Registration
09.15 to 11.00	Session 1
11.00 to 11.30	Coffee break/visit to exhibition
11.30 to 13.00	Session 2
13.00 to 14.30	Lunch
14.30 to 16.00	Session 3
Workshop 6: Sunday	
09.00 to 10.30	Session 4
10.30 to 11.00	Coffee break/visit to exhibition
11.00 to 11.45	Session 5

- A framework for planning and implementing powerful questioning techniques.
- Confidence in creating a classroom culture where student inquiry and deep thinking are the norm.

Martin Morgan



Course Overview

Are you ready to transform your classroom into a dynamic, student-led learning environment? Join renowned educational expert Martin Morgan for an intensive workshop designed to equip you with the tools to foster student autonomy, make learning transparent, and ensure every learner achieves their full potential.

Drawing on his expertise in translating research into practice, Martin will guide you through a powerful, practical framework focusing on the core strategies that create confident, curious, and independent learners.

This workshop is essential for **teachers and school leaders** who are committed to fostering student agency, deepening learning, and achieving outstanding results. You will leave with:

- A toolkit of practical differentiation strategies.
- Methods to increase student responsibility and autonomy.
- A deep understanding of formative assessment and feedback models.

Martin Morgan is a highly respected educational trainer and leadership expert dedicated to developing excellence in schools. Through his organisation, Empower Education, he delivers impactful training programmes to a diverse clientele, having supported British schools across Spain, Denmark, Brazil, and the United Kingdom. Martin's work focuses on providing leaders and teachers with the tools to cultivate environments where both staff and students can thrive, and he is an expert in translating complex educational research into practical and accessible classroom strategies. His extensive experience in the sector is highlighted by his continuing work with the renowned Professor John Hattie. Furthermore, he has contributed his expertise on a global scale through his involvement with the World Education Summit. Martin is passionate about building sustainable capacity within schools, ensuring they are equipped for long-term success.

WORKSHOP SEVEN: AI ESSENTIALS FOR TEACHERS

DR. MADIHA KHAN

Workshop 7: Saturday	
08.45 to 09.15	Registration
09.15 to 10.30	Session 1
10.30 to 11.00	Coffee break/visit to exhibition
11.00 to 13.00	Session 2
13.00 to 14.30	Lunch
14.30 to 16.00	Session 3
Workshop 1: Sunday	
09.00 to 10.30	Session 4
10.30 to 11.00	Coffee break/visit to exhibition
11.00 to 11.45	Session 5

- Ethical considerations and digital safety when using AI with students.

Course Overview

Educational institutions are increasingly recognizing the transformative potential of AI technologies to enhance teaching and learning, streamline administrative processes, and provide personalised learning experiences. There is a growing need for professional development that addresses both the practical applications of AI in educational settings and the strategic considerations for implementing AI at an organisational level. Teachers want support in understanding how AI can enhance their teaching practice. This workshop is therefore designed to help teachers understand AI, its applications in the classroom, and practical implementation strategies to enhance teaching and learning.

This course is suitable for both **primary and secondary teachers**. Key topics will include:

- Fundamentals of AI and its applications in education.
- Practical applications of AI tools in the classroom.
- Implementation planning and integration into teaching practice.

Dr. Madiha Khan



Madiha is an AI researcher and Director of AI Services at Educate Ventures Research. She works closely with school networks and policy makers in developing ethical and purposeful approaches towards AI. Her particular area of interest is in the use of data and AI to extract meaningful insights about teaching and learning. She has a PhD in self-regulated learning, specifically exploring a learning analytics approach towards monitoring tutor co-regulation of learners in an online classroom.

WORKSHOP EIGHT: AI ESSENTIALS FOR SCHOOL MANAGERS

PROF. ROSE LUCKIN

Workshop 8: Saturday	
08.45 to 09.15	Registration
09.15 to 11.00	Session 1
11.00 to 11.30	Coffee break/visit to exhibition
11.30 to 13.30	Session 2
13.30 to 15.00	Lunch
15.00 to 16.00	Session 3
Workshop 8: Sunday	
09.00 to 10.30	Session 4
10.30 to 11.00	Coffee break/visit to exhibition
11.00 to 11.45	Session 5

- Ethical governance frameworks for AI use.
- Implementation planning and capacity building for AI initiatives.

Prof. Rose Luckin



Course Overview

Educational institutions are increasingly recognizing the transformative potential of AI technologies to enhance teaching and learning, streamline administrative processes, and provide personalised learning experiences. There is a growing need for professional development that addresses both the practical applications of AI in educational settings and the strategic considerations for implementing AI at an organisational level. Teachers need support to understand how AI can enhance their teaching practice, while school leaders require guidance on how to develop AI strategies that reduce administrative workload and establish ethical governance frameworks.

This course is designed for particularly suited to **school leaders and managers** to develop AI strategies that reduce administrative workload, support decision-making, and establish ethical governance frameworks. Key topics will include:

- Fundamentals of AI and its applications in education.
- Strategic approaches to AI adoption in educational settings.
- Purpose driven approach towards AI use-cases

Rose Luckin is a Professor at University College London and Founder of Educate Ventures Research (EVR) who has spent over 30 years developing and studying AI for Education. She is renowned for her research into the design and evaluation of educational technology and AI. She was named as one of the 20 most influential people in education in the Seldon List in 2017, the only non-US winner of the ISTE Impact Award, and one of Computer Weekly's top 50 most influential women in technology for 2023. Rose regularly provides expert evidence to policymakers like the UK Parliament's House of Lords and House of Commons select committees and the European Commission.

Rose has published widely in academic journals, at international conferences, through books, and in news media (TV, radio, newspapers, and magazines). Her 2018 book, *Machine Learning and Human Intelligence: The Future of Education for the 21st Century*, has been translated into Mandarin and influenced many of China's leading AI companies. Her most recent book, *AI for School Teachers* (2022), is an essential and accessible guide to AI for anyone in education.

Keynote Presentations

Mark Anderson

Beyond the Hype: AI, Equity and the Human Purpose of Education



In this keynote, Mark will discuss how schools can move beyond the hype of AI to focus on equity, impact, and the human purpose of education, sharing global perspectives and practical strategies that ensure technology serves teachers and learners while keeping people at the heart of learning.

Mark is an internationally-known and respected speaker, educator, an Amazon #1 best-selling author, consultant and former school leader who specialises in supporting schools to adopt the very best practices to develop teaching and learning in an ever-changing world.

His keynotes are practical and grounded in evidence-informed approaches and cognitive science, to ensure that everyone leaves empowered to make changes that will have both immediate and lasting impact.

Martin Illingworth

Forget School: Why young people are succeeding on their own terms and what schools can do to avoid being left behind



The young need to network, to communicate effectively, and be alert to the world around them. Being confident is at the heart of this. How can we create the learning opportunities and spaces for our young to develop their sense of interest and capacity in learning? In this session, with a mix of practical ideas and deep thinking, 'Forget School' author Martin Illingworth provides an insight into the ways that teachers can become more focused upon supporting young people to see the beauty of their lives now and their potential in entering the rapidly changing world of the twenty-first century.

Martin Illingworth is a prominent figure for his work in promoting creative and engaging teaching practices. He is a strong advocate for giving young people a voice in education. In his book *Forget School: Why Young People Are Succeeding on Their Own Terms*, he argues that traditional schooling often fails to prepare students for the realities of the modern world. He encourages educators to reconsider what "success" means and adapt teaching methods to better align with the skills young people need outside the classroom. Martin emphasises the importance of creativity in teaching and learning. He inspires teachers to design lessons that engage students more deeply and foster critical thinking, problem-solving, and innovation.

While based in the UK, Martin's ideas resonate globally, particularly in countries seeking to balance traditional education models with the demands of a rapidly changing world. His work contributes to a global dialogue on the future of education and the role of teachers in shaping it.

Dr. Alexandra Read **One Step Beyond.....Curriculum Design in the Age of AI**



In an era shaped by artificial intelligence and rapid technological change, this interactive workshop invites educational leaders and practitioners to reimagine curriculum and assessment design for the future. Grounded in neuroscience and illustrated through real-world case studies, the session explores how AI and emerging technologies can be integrated purposefully and ethically to enhance teaching and learning.

Participants will examine how to centre human intelligence, creativity and student agency while embracing innovation. The workshop also introduces practical safeguarding and risk-assessment resources to support the safe, ethical and effective use of technology with approaches for understanding and measuring impact.

Through a blend of visionary insights, supporting research, illustrative examples and practical activities attendees will explore personalised learning pathways and develop a shared vision for digital transformation that reinvents teaching and learning, empowering educators and students to thrive with creativity, agency and purpose in an digital world.

Dr. Alexandra Read is Head of Learning Technology at the Girls' Day School Trust (GDST), where she leads the development of digital strategy and technology proficiency across the organisation. Her work focuses on creating equitable, innovative learning environments and expanding opportunities for girls and women in STEM. Alexandra is passionate about values-driven educational leadership, socially responsible uses of technology and fostering creativity through digital tools.

Before joining the GDST, Alexandra spent 12 years in the international independent schools sector with ACS International Schools and began her career teaching technology in Florida, USA. She has extensive experience in AI strategy, data-driven solutions, and curriculum design, as well as coaching educators to integrate technology effectively. Her PhD research explored the relationship between educational leaders' technology proficiency and school performance, underpinning her commitment to evidence-based practice.

Alexandra champions experiential learning and curriculum models that connect classroom knowledge with real-world applications, creating pathways to business and industry for students. She regularly speaks at national and international conferences and is a strong advocate for ethical approaches to AI in education and professional development that empowers teachers to innovate confidently.

Professor Rupert Wegerif ???



Professor Rupert Wegerif is a professor in the Faculty of Education at the University of Cambridge and the founder and academic director of the Digital Education Futures Initiative at Hughes Hall, Cambridge (www.DEFICambridge.org). His research focuses on the role of dialogue and technology in learning. In the thirty years since his PhD in educational technology at the Open University he has focused on developing a new theory and practice of education for the digital age. His recent book with Louis Major 'The Theory of Educational Technology: A Dialogic Framework for Design' (Routledge, 2024) suggests ways to re-think education in the light of the AI-enhanced Internet and his latest book 'Rethinking Educational Theory: Education as expanding dialogue' (Edward Elgar, 2025) puts forward a coherent vision of education for the future.