



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

Saturday 7th March

09.00	Registration for AGM	
<i>Salón Garbi</i>		
09.45	AGM (first part)	
<i>Salón Garbi</i>		
11.45	Exhibition visit & Coffee break	
<i>Salón Tramuntana</i>		
12.00	AGM (second part)	
<i>Salón Garbi</i>		
13.45	Lunch	
<i>Salón Tramuntana</i>		
14.30	Keynote Speaker: Professor Rupert Wegerif	 CAMBRIDGE
<i>Salón Garbi</i>		
15.10	Keynote Speaker: Dr. Alexandra Tomescu Balancing Innovation and Integrity in the age of AI	 OXFORD AQA INTERNATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS
<i>Salón Garbi</i>		
15.50	Keynote Speaker: Les Hopper AI's Role in Inclusive Education	 Pearson
<i>Salón Garbi</i>		

Professional Development Workshops 08.45 to 16.00

Workshop 1	Phil Armstrong	The Child at the Heart
<i>Salón Mestral I-2</i>		
Workshop 2	Faye Morris	Creating a Positive and Inclusive Classroom Environment
<i>Salón Mestral 3-4</i>		
Workshop 3	Matthew McFall	Developing Curious Classrooms
<i>Salón Llevant 1</i>		
Workshop 4	Ian Gilbert	Essential Motivation in the Classroom
<i>Salón Llevant 2</i>		
Workshop 5	Dave Harris	Middle Leadership - What Works and Why?
<i>Salón Llevant 3</i>		
Workshop 6	Martin Morgan	From Engagement to Empowerment
<i>Salón Llevant 4</i>		
Workshop 7	Rose Luckin	AI Leadership for School Managers
<i>Salón Llevant 5</i>		
Workshop 8	Madiha Khan	AI Essentials for Teachers
<i>Salón Gregal 3</i>		

SATURDAY AFTERNOON PROGRAMME FOR ALL DELEGATES 16.30 to 17.30

16.30

A selection of **BREAKOUT SESSIONS** - to be confirmed

18.00

Salón Garbi

Cocktail and presentation of awards

Sponsored by Cambridge



CAMBRIDGE

Sunday 8th March

09.00	Safeguarding Panel
Salón Garbi	
10.15	Introduction to new NABSS website
Salón Garbi	
10.30	Exhibition visit & Coffee break
Salón Tramuntana	
10.45	Legal Panel
Salón Garbi	

Professional Development Workshops 09.00 to 11.45

Workshop 1	Phil Armstrong	The Child at the Heart
Salón Mestral 1-2		
Workshop 2	Faye Morris	Creating a Positive and Inclusive Classroom Environment
Salón Mestral 3-4		
Workshop 3	Matthew McFall	Developing Curious Classrooms
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Salón Llevant 5		
Workshop 8	Madiha Khan	AI Essentials for Teachers
Salón Gregal 3		

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 of 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 20 years 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

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;
- 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

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

This course is suited to **teachers of all age ranges** and will explore curiosity, wonder, and awe in their multitude of forms. It will be grounded in insight, practicality, and the joy of direct encounter and discovery. Through a combination of theory and practice, the session will equip educators with the tools needed to foster a culture of curiosity and wonder within their schools. By embracing approaches that encourage questioning and open-ended investigation, teachers can nurture a sense of excitement and engagement in their students, making learning both memorable and transformative. The course will highlight real-world examples and success stories, illustrating the impact that a wonder-rich environment can have on academic achievement and personal growth.

Throughout the session, participants will be encouraged to reflect on their own teaching practices and consider how small changes can have a profound impact on student engagement. The course will also offer guidance on overcoming common barriers to cultivating wonder, such as rigid curriculum structures or a lack of resources, providing practical solutions that can be readily implemented within any educational setting.

- **Seeking Wonder:** How do we understand wonder, and how does it relate to curiosity and awe?
- **The Heritage of Wonder:** What are the traditions of wonder, and how can we bring them into our schools?
- **Embedding Wonder:** Practical strategies for integrating wonder into the curriculum.
- **Growing Wonder:** Hands-on activities to spark imagination.

Dr. Matthew McFall



Matthew is one of the (if not *the*) leading experts on the power of curiosity and wonder in the classroom. His second doctorate explores the practicalities and benefits of wonder in formal and informal education, with the key message that exploring wonder generates more wonder.

Matthew has worked across the world on multiple curious projects, from explaining the mysteries of quantum science at the Royal Institute, London, to advising on learning and engagement at the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures in Los Angeles. He is a designer of mazes, puzzles, and conjuring effects, and is currently exploring the uses of Escape Rooms to generate meaningful and memorable experiences.

Matthew looks forward to taking the delegates on an enchanting journey of their own learning, helping them identify ways that wonder and curiosity can become part of everyday learning in all classrooms, across the school, and beyond.

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

Inspired by ideas and approaches from his best-selling book *Essential Motivation the Classroom*, course is relevant to **teachers and leaders of all age ranges**.

The premise of the book is not 'How do I motivate my students?' but 'How do my students motivate themselves?' and this interactive and provocative course will take delegates through Seven Keys to Motivation.

1. Seeing the point of what we're doing.
2. Enjoying doing it.
3. Doing it because we want to do it.
4. Having the sense that what we are doing is relevant and useful.
5. Feeling that we are doing it with people who value us.
6. Not feeling excessively stressed or scared when we do it.
7. Knowing that by attempting it, we can make things better.

What's more, Ian sets his work against the backdrop of the complex and challenging world where the very point and purpose of school - along with the nature of schooling - is changing in ways we have not yet grasped.

He will pose the five big questions facing education and educators in 2026 and beyond and explore why having effective learning strategies in the classroom is important - but don't just start there and don't just end there.

With practical examples and ideas drawn from over thirty years working with schools across the UK and further afield, Ian will help delegates explore how getting the best out of students in the classroom works better when they want to get the best out of themselves.

Ian Gilbert



Ian Gilbert is an award-winning education author, editor, publisher and speaker who has lived and worked across five continents. In 1995 he established the unique UK educational platform, Independent Thinking, consistently bringing together some of the best speakers and practitioners to help schools help education do its job of 'making things better'. The author of *Essential Motivation in the Classroom* and *Why Do I Need a Teacher When I've Got Google?*, both published by Routledge where he is now a Series Editor, he also published titles under the Independent Thinking Press including works by Hywel Roberts, Nina Jackson and Jonathan Lear along with his own his highly popular Thunks books.

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.**

- **Why are things so demanding in schools at the moment?** Does it sometimes feel like plaiting fog? Or maybe tap dancing on ice is how you sometimes feel? Understanding the 'why's' will actually help you see ways to combat the madness. In particular what are the pressures of middle leadership?
- **What does research say are the key characteristics of great leaders?** We will look at the role of moral leadership and how your values may be the most important part of the role you fulfil.
- **Different styles of leadership.** We do not all approach the job in the same way, nor should we. We will look at various ways to categorise leadership, but more importantly investigate how those differences can be used to improve

the effectiveness of the teams you work in. We will look at methods of individual coaching and check our own practice against known successful strategies

- **Collaboration is key.** Looking at ways to work together between areas, ages and schools. We will look at what makes collaboration successful and consider how looking outside our own expertise can often bring depth and strength to our work
- **A little understanding of the brain** and how it affects our learning and behaviour will help your leadership greatly. In this session we will look at how we can make the brain more effective and investigate how every leader should be seeding a little curiosity in the area that they lead.

Dave Harris



Dave Harris was a teacher for over 30 years - headteacher for over 12 of these, working across all the phases of education. He believes that education is too important not to enjoy. He spends much of his time in schools across the globe trying to promote a positivity toward learning in all he meets. He is proud to have worked with some great educational thinkers, co-authoring 2 books with Prof John West-Burnham, writing 3 more with Ian Gilbert and playing a key part in the day to day running of the Independent Thinking Team. He has been a governor, consultant and Chief Examiner in his time & is never happier than when working with passionate educators.

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

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.

- 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



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

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.

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

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

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

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

Prof. Rose Luckin



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 a 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.

Dr. Alexandra Tomescu



Combining the allure of AI's boundless potential for educators with the many well-meaning voices of caution is a challenging balancing act. In this session, Dr Alexandra Tomescu will present a vision for a way forward for schools, drawing on her experience championing the responsible development of AI-powered educational resources and her leading of Oxford University Press's recent AI research projects. This session aims to equip school leaders and teachers with insights from her recent research, a framework with which to rigorously evaluate educational AI tools, and a vision for flourishing schools and students who wisely handle AI's potential.

Dr Alexandra Tomescu is a Product Specialist in AI & Machine Learning at Oxford University Press, where she leads the Education Division's strategy for integrating AI into educational products and workflows. With over a decade of experience in EdTech and international publishing, she has spearheaded the creation of adaptive learning tools for international curricula, contributed to the OECD's PISA 2025 Science Framework, and shaped digital learning platforms. She is passionate about exploring the intersection of technology and pedagogy, in order to transform learning experiences worldwide.

Les Hopper

**AI's Role in Inclusive Education -
Supporting Learning and Assessment for All**



Les Hopper is a Product Director at Pearson: Les has nearly 20 years' experience working with educators, technologists and academics to produce market leading learning solutions. He is passionate about the power of education to change lives, and the potential that technology offers to support a high-quality education. Les currently works as Product Director covering Digital and Assessment, qualifications and publishing for Pearson's UK business.



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