

5th - 8th MARCH
SITGES 2026

48th
ANNUAL
CONFERENCE

**LEARNING
WITHOUT
BORDERS**

nabss

National Association of
British Schools in Spain

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 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 Forget School: Why young people are succeeding on their own terms and what schools can do to avoid being left behind	
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>	 <small>High Performance Learning</small>
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 Education for Dialogue	 CAMBRIDGE <small>cambridge.org/internationaleducation</small>
<i>Salón Garbi</i>		
15.10	Keynote Speaker: Dr. Alexandra Tomescu Balancing Innovation and Integrity in an age of AI	 OXFORD AQA <small>internationalqualifications</small>
<i>Salón Garbi</i>		
15.50	Keynote Speaker: Les Hopper AI's Role in Inclusive Education	
<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	Carmen Tómas	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 - details below
18.00 <i>Salón Garbi</i>	Cocktail and presentation of awards <i>Sponsored by Cambridge</i>



CAMBRIDGE

cambridge.org/internationaleducation

Breakout Sessions 16.30 - 17.30

Breakout 1 <i>Salón Mestral I-2</i>	Matt Moseley & Marc Mollica	Creative Subjects in a Changing World
Breakout 2 <i>Salón Mestral 3-4</i>	Cassey Benito	Achieving 'Learning without Borders' through High Performance Learning
Breakout 3 <i>Salón Llevant 1</i>	Laura Martín	Outdoor Learning
Breakout 4 <i>Salón Llevant 2</i>	Robert Schrimpf	'Energy and decarbonisation education funded by the sun' How schools can help tackle climate change and empower their students to shape a safe future.
Breakout 5 <i>Salón Llevant 3</i>	Anasyasiya Tyurina	Career Planning for Teenagers - From Choosing a University to Financial Freedom
Breakout 6 <i>Salón Llevant 4</i>	Courtney Grange	UCAS - The Benefits of Studying in the UK and a Guide to Applying
Breakout 7 <i>Salón Llevant 5</i>	Carla . . .	Classroom Design in Changing Times
Breakout 8 <i>Salón Gregal 3</i>	Harbour Space . . .	AI Olympiad
Breakout 9 <i>Salón Garbi</i>	ICS . . .	ICS - An Update on the International Schools Market

Sunday 8th March

09.00 <i>Salón Garbi</i>	Safeguarding Panel: Changes and Challenges in Safeguarding Protocols in Spain
10.15 <i>Salón Garbi</i>	Introduction to the new NABSS website
10.30 <i>Salón Tramuntana</i>	Exhibition visit & Coffee break
10.45 <i>Salón Garbi</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
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
Workshop 7 <i>Salón Llevant 5</i>	Rose Luckin	AI Leadership for School Managers
Workshop 8 <i>Salón Gregal 3</i>	Carmen Tómas	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 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

How can we design lessons so that every pupil can thrive? This highly practical workshop draws on the latest research from the science of learning to help you make inclusive practice part of everyday teaching.

This course is particularly suited to **Primary teachers**.

Spread across five interactive sessions, you'll first gain a clear, accessible overview of how children learn, exploring concepts such as cognitive load, memory, retrieval and motivation. We'll examine how these aspects of learning can present barriers for pupils with additional learning needs, and how teachers can use insights from cognitive science to reduce those barriers in everyday lessons.

You'll then apply this knowledge to real classroom contexts: adapting curricula, improving explanations, and developing strategies for self-regulation. Each session combines expert input with rich examples, video clips and bespoke resources from Evidence Based Education, giving you a bank of strategies to take away.

Practical, collaborative activities - from sorting tasks and gallery walks, to collaborative lesson design - ensure you leave with concrete plans as well as an understanding of the theory. Discussion prompts throughout will help you reflect on your own context and identify small but powerful changes you can make immediately.

The workshop concludes with a guided action-planning session, so you leave with clear next steps, ready to trial and embed inclusive approaches in your classroom. Come prepared to think, share, and build practical tools for supporting all learners to thrive.

Faye Morris



Faye Morris is an experienced educator with over a decade of hands-on primary teaching and leadership experience, and a MSc in Educational Leadership and Management. Faye is now part of the Evidence Based Education team, where she spends her time delivering training and providing support to school teams across the world, enabling them to develop programmes of professional development that work in their context.

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 and 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. CARMEN TOMÁS

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. Carmen Tomás



Dr. Carmen Tomás is a seasoned leader in education innovation, staff development, research, and coaching. She has extensive experience supporting educational organisations and practitioners worldwide in adopting evidence-based practices, online learning, e-assessment, learning analytics, and AI. In addition to her work with institutions, Carmen also coaches edtech founders and innovators, helping them design impactful and scalable learning solutions.

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 a researcher and consultant and was the Head of Learning Technology for the Girls Day School Trust until February 2026 leading on developing digital strategy and technology proficiency in GDST schools and creating more opportunities for girls and women in STEM. Prior to joining the GDST Alexandra worked for 12 years in the international independent schools sector for ACS International Schools and started her career teaching technology in Collier County Public Schools in Florida U.S.A. Her areas of interest and expertise include values-driven educational leadership and culture, socially responsible approaches to using technology to innovate and transform teaching and learning, gender and diversity in technology education, AI strategy and implementing data solutions, technology coaching, and strategic curriculum planning to promote creativity. Her PhD research explored the relationship between the technology proficiency of educational leaders and their schools. Alexandra currently offers consultancy and support services for UK and international school leaders in technology and digital transformation, AI and STEM in education.

Professor Rupert Wegerif *Education for Dialogue*

Dialogue should be understood not only as an effective means of learning but as a central aim of education. A culture of dialogic learning enables students to think together, extend ideas, and engage with multiple points of view, building deeper conceptual understanding across the curriculum. Practical strategies show how teachers can create classrooms where learners develop agency, confidence, and an active voice. Teaching for dialogue equips young people to participate thoughtfully in the wider conversations of culture and society, preparing them for a world that urgently needs collaborative, open-minded thinking.

Rupert Wegerif is Professor of Education at the University of Cambridge with a long track record of researching and teaching dialogue in education. His interest in dialogue began during his secondary teacher training, leading to a PhD that developed a practical pedagogy for teaching dialogue—the Thinking Together approach, created with Neil Mercer and Lyn Dawes—and demonstrated its impact on both group and individual thinking.

At Cambridge, Rupert has been a leading member of the Cambridge Educational Dialogue Research Group (CEDIR), contributing to numerous classroom-based studies of dialogue and publishing extensively on what dialogic education is, how it works, and why it matters. He has authored practical books on how to teach dialogue in both English and Spanish, including *Dialogar para pensar y aprender juntos en el aula* (Porrua, 2019, with Julieta Pérez Linares) and *Dialogic Education: Mastering Core Concepts Through Thinking Together* (Routledge, 2016, with Neil Phillipson). His latest book, *Rethinking Educational Theory: Education as Expanding Dialogue*, was published by Edward Elgar in early 2025.

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.

Dr. Alexandra Tomescu *Balancing Innovation and Integrity in an age of AI*



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.

Breakout Sessions

Creative Subjects in a Changing World

Session outline: Borders in learning are not only geographical but also disciplinary, institutional, and psychological, and they can restrict collaboration, innovation, and self-expression. Creative subjects—art, theatre, music, design, fashion, film, games—thrive when those borders are dissolved, allowing learners to cross boundaries, embrace risk, and imagine new possibilities. This session will highlight how interdisciplinary approaches, global connectivity, and supportive pedagogical environments can unlock creativity and broaden educational access. Drawing on case studies and current practices, it will demonstrate how students and educators are already learning beyond borders through digital platforms, cross-cultural collaboration, and hybrid creative practices.



Matt Moseley



Marc Mollica

Matt is Chief Examiner for Art and Design at UAL Awarding Body and an experienced teacher and leader in arts education as well as being a practitioner with a particular interest in the creative process. Matt has an MA in printmaking, a Post-Graduate Certificate in Education, and substantial experience in the design, planning, delivery, and assessment of project based creative learning to students/participants in a variety of settings and age ranges (from 4 to 80 years old). Matt is a strong advocate for creativity in all areas of education.

Marc is both an academic and practitioner in the creative arts sector. With an MA in Theatre (Directing) and a PGCE in Education, Marc brings substantial practical expertise and academic insight to his role as Chief Examiner for Performing and Production Arts at UAL Awarding Body. Marc has extensive experience in curriculum design and qualification development and is an advocate of the transformative power of the arts. Marc's research interests extend to creative environments/spaces and his directing practice has a focus on cross-arts collaborative storytelling.

Achieving 'Learning without Borders' through High Performance Learning

Session outline: *This . . .*



Cassey Benito

High Performance Learning provides the teaching and learning ecosystem which propels schools, whatever their starting point, along the journey to becoming world class, all backed with research and evidence into what the science shows.

Cassey Benito is the Head of Programmes and Partnerships at HLP, where she works alongside our paid and supporting partner companies. Alongside this, Cassey works with our schools to deliver a strong and robust programme structure.

Session outline: *This . . .*

'Energy and decarbonisation education funded by the sun'

How schools can help tackle climate change and empower their students to shape a safe future.

Session outline: *This . . .*



Robert Schrimpf

Robert Schrimpf is the Co-founder and CEO of Solar for Schools. Prior to this, Robert led investments in renewable energy companies for 8 years. He co-founded Lumicity, a successful renewable project developer. Prior to that, Robert set up several internet businesses including hotels.com, focused on helping membership organisations and charities leverage the power of the web. Robert firmly believes that solar on roofs is the most sensible first big sustainable step to shedding our dependence on fossil fuels. Robert's experience in web apps, solar power and renewable energy finance culminated in the founding of Solar for Schools, as a way of accelerating the adoption of solar on roofs. Robert holds an MBA from INSEAD.

Career Planning for Teenagers - From Choosing a University to Financial Freedom

Session outline: *Teenagers and their parents often feel overwhelmed by the variety of career paths, university rankings, and the fast-changing job market. This session provides practical tools and inspiration to help them navigate these choices with clarity and confidence. We will explore: How to help teenagers discover their strengths and interests; Which criteria really matter when choosing a profession and a university; Common mistakes families should avoid in career and education planning; How to engage teens in conversations about money, independence, and financial freedom.*



Anastasiya Tyurina

Career & Future Talent Strategist and Founder of Garage Tech Academy. She has worked with 200+ startups, guided hundreds of students, and visited 300+ universities in 20+ countries. As a former director of a global business incubator and a mother of a multilingual teen, she combines professional expertise with real-life experience to help young people set goals, explore careers, and design their personal paths.

UCAS - The Benefits of Studying in the UK and a Guide to Applying

Session outline: *This . . .*



Courtney Grange

Courtney is the International Development Officer for UCAS. Courtney has extensive experience providing direct support to Higher Education Providers, advisers, and applicants on all aspects of the UCAS undergraduate process. Courtney has delivered presentations with advice on completing the UCAS undergraduate application (and highlighting UCAS research tools) at prominent UK venues. Such as the London ExCeL, Manchester Convention Centre, Liverpool Exhibition Centre, Glasgow SEC, and the International Conference Centre Wales. In his current role at UCAS, Courtney's focus is on international student mobility. This includes developing and nurturing relationships with stakeholders involved in supporting international students.

Achieving 'Learning without Borders' through High Performance Learning

Session outline: *This . . .*



Cassey Benito

High Performance Learning provides the teaching and learning ecosystem which propels schools, whatever their starting point, along the journey to becoming world class, all backed with research and evidence into what the science shows.

Cassey Benito is the Head of Programmes and Partnerships at HLP, where she works alongside our paid and supporting partner companies. Alongside this, Cassey works with our schools to deliver a strong and robust programme structure.

Session outline: *This . . .*

Session outline: *This . . .*

Guest Speakers



www.nabss.org

C/ Ferraz, 85 28008 Madrid

nabss@acade.es

+34 91 550 01 23

nabss
National Association of
British Schools in Spain