



# Widening the Lens: Insights, Challenges and Possibilities

Speakers 2022



# Widening the Lens: Insights, Challenges and Possibilities

The Foundation for Education's (FED) two-day summit takes a series of different lenses to long-term education thinking.

We ask some key politicians about building cross-party consensus as we suggest some new approaches that will make it easier to move away from stale arguments about structures and concentrate instead on education as a catalyst for genuine levelling up and community growth.

We will challenge some assumptions about purpose and practice and deep dive into why some policies succeed whereas others fall at the last hurdle.

The programme of the two-day summit is outlined overleaf.

## Day 1: Monday 11th July

# Possibilities

Time	Content
9.30am	<b>Welcome</b> from FED Chair, Carl Ward
9.40am	<b>Keynote</b> Rt Hon Nadhim Zahawi MP, Secretary of State for Education
9.50am	<b>A different politics? Building cross party consensus</b> Natascha Engel Chief Executive Policy Connect
10.15am	<b>A different language? Defining the purposes of a 21st century education</b> Kirstie Donnelly CBE asks what best captures a view of education for the future: human flourishing, social contract, social justice or work readiness? With responses from Larissa Kennedy, Michael Stevenson and Noah Sobe
11.30am	<b>Brighter Times Ahead? Six foundation stones for a more hopeful future for education</b> Professor Mick Waters in conversation with Nasreen Hussein (Birmingham City Council)
12.15pm	<b>Reflections:</b> 3 former Permanent Secretaries to the Department for Education reflect on policies, practices and unintended consequences Chaired by Branwen Jeffreys, BBC Education Editor, with contributions from Sir David Normington, Lord Michael Bichard and Jonathan Slater. This session is a recording of a recent FED event, sponsored and supported by the Edge Foundation
1.00pm	<b>Lunch</b>
2.00pm	<b>Panel Discussion:</b> Education and skills: coherence and connectedness for the long term Chaired by David Hughes CBE with contributions from Natalie Day (Sheffield Hallam University) Dr Anne Murdoch (ASCL), Ellen Thinnesen OBE (Education Partnership North East) and Caroline Wright (BESA)
3.00pm	<b>Panel Discussion:</b> Levelling up: short term slogan or long-term strategy? Chaired by Dame Ann Limb DBE DL FRSA with contributions from Paul Swinney (Centre for Cities) Emily Sun (Place Matters) and Adam Hawkbee (Onward)
4.00pm	<b>Closing reflections</b>

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Day 2: Tuesday 11th July

# Insights and Challenges

Time	Content
9.30am	<b>Welcome from</b> Rt Hon Munira Wilson MP, Liberal Democrat Spokesperson for Education
9.50am	<b>Muted voices:</b> an introduction to the morning Professor Fiona Forbes
10.00am	<b>Panel Discussion:</b> Listening to the future. Many organisations claim to listen to the views of 'young people' but how often do ideas become impactful policies? Laura-Jane Rawlings, CEO of Youth Employment UK, in conversation with members of FED's Learners Council. With contributions from Aliyah Irabor-York, Shaun Odili and Mohammed Alam Begi
10.55am	<b>Break</b>
11.15am	<b>Unmuting inclusion:</b> What we do (and don't yet) know from the data, and the results of a recent survey of parents, teachers and students. Karen Wespieser MBE in conversation with Professor Sonia Blandford
11:45am	<b>How do we build better futures for Alternative Provision students and care leavers?</b> Dennis Simms (Centre for Social Justice) and Hannah Kirkbride (CEO Career Matters)
12:15pm	<b>Future Fit? What vision lies behind the idea of a long-term plan?</b> Global thought leader Valerie Hannon shares ideas from her new book 'Future School'
1.00pm	<b>Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Education</b>
1.20pm	<b>Lunch</b>
2.00pm	<b>Panel discussion:</b> Challenging perspectives by learning to think globally Jo Malone (FED) in conversation with Serdar Ferit (Lyfta) Laila Duabies (World Vision) Claire Madzura (co-chair FED Learners Council) and Roger Wilson (Black Lives in Music)
3.00pm	<b>Creative Chaos?</b> A case study on the impact of constantly changing policy. Led by the Royal Shakespeare Company's Director of Learning, Jacqui O'Hanlon MBE, with contributions from Tony Ryan (Chief Executive Design and Technology Association), Sally Bacon OBE and Dr. Steven Berryman (Odyssey Trust)
4.00pm	<b>Closing thoughts</b> David Gallagher Chief Executive NCFE
4.15pm	<b>Finish</b>

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**Sally Bacon OBE**  
**Board Director of FrameWorks UK**

Sally Bacon was Executive Director of the Clore Duffield Foundation for 23 years, where she led the Foundation's wide-ranging grant-making activity across the cultural, education and social sectors – distributing in excess of £150m – and developed a series of sector support initiatives. She founded the Cultural Learning Alliance in 2009, which works to ensure that every child experiences an arts-rich education that enables them to fulfil their potential. She chaired the steering groups which led to the creation of two leadership development charities: Clore Leadership (for the cultural sector); and Clore Social Leadership for the wider charity community. Before joining the Foundation, Sally studied for a PhD in English literature and the visual arts, worked as Education Officer at the Poetry Society, and as Children's Books Editor and Children's Programmes Manager for the National Trust. She has edited and written several books for children. She has been a school governor, a charity trustee, a member of the Advisory Council of the Creative Industries Federation, and a Museum of the Year judge. Sally was awarded the OBE in 2017 for services to cultural learning.



**Mohammed Alam Begi**  
**Co-Chair of the FED Learners Council**

Mohammed is an Associate Researcher at The Foundation for Education Development and a Consultant for the Education Strategy Unit at the City of London Corporation. He grew up in rural Afghanistan before starting a new life in London in 2012. Within 6 years, he obtained a place at the University of Oxford, graduating in 2021 and will begin his Master's degree at Harvard University. Mohammed is passionate about education and believes every learner should be seen as an individual with needs and potential and should be given every opportunity to flourish.



**Lord Michael G Bichard**  
**Permanent secretary at the DfE 1995-2001**

A lifelong public servant, Michael Bichard spent thirty years in local and central government. He was Chief Executive of both Brent and Gloucestershire councils and in 1990 became Chief Executive of the Government's Benefits Agency. From 1995 he was Permanent Secretary of the Employment Department, later the Department for Education and Employment. Michael received a Knighthood in the Queen's Birthday Honours 1999. In May 2001 he left the Civil Service and became Rector of the University of the Arts in London for the following 7 years. Since then he moved on to direct the new Institute for Government, Chair the Design Council and The Globe Theatre.



**Professor Sonia Blandford**  
**Professor of Social Mobility, Plymouth Marjon University**

Over 40 years in education as teacher, school senior leader, researcher, teacher educator, dean of education, pro-vice chancellor, school governor, MAT trustee, and author; Professor of Social Mobility Plymouth Marjon, Visiting Professor of Education UCL, Honorary Professor Warwick University; Founder and former CEO award-winning charity - Achievement for All 3As; The Prince's Trust Learning Lead – Taskforce 2030. Co-created Teacher Training Resource Bank, Teach First programme; Founding Vice-President Chartered College of Teaching; UK lead for European Agency for Inclusion and SEND Raising Attainment research report. Editor Teaching Times Inclusion Journal, recent publications - Born to Fail? Social Mobility, A Working Class view, 'Social Mobility Chance or Choice?'



**Dr Steven Berryman**  
**Director (Arts, Culture & Community) at Odyssey Trust for Education and President-elect of Chartered College of Teaching**

September 2020 Dr Steven Berryman joined the Odyssey Trust for Education as Director, Arts and Culture, working with colleagues across the two schools in the Trust (Townley Grammar and King Henry) to ensure all pupils have an enriching and innovative arts and cultural provision. Steven was one of the first Chartered Teachers, and the part of the pilot cohort for the Chartered Teacher (Leadership) strand. Steven was formerly Director of Music at City of London School for Girls (2015–2020), and for 2019–2020 academic year was seconded to the Education Strategy Unit at the City of London Corporation leading on cultural and creative learning projects across the family of schools in the City. Previously Steven taught at the Junior Departments of the Royal Academy of Music, Trinity Laban and taught music at the North London Collegiate School. He has contributed to MA teaching at King's College London, Reading University and supervises doctoral candidates at Buckingham University. From September 2022 he leads a module as part of the MA Education in Arts and Cultural Settings, and contributes to the MA International Music Education at the Royal College of Music. Steven has contributed widely to educational press, expert roundtables, examining and as an arts education practitioner including work as a composer; recent work includes projects with Royal Opera House, London Philharmonic Orchestra, NMC Recordings and Ofqual. 2021 - 2022 Steven was a member of the DFE/DCMS expert panel to refresh the National Plan for Music Education - the refreshed plan was published 25 June 2022. Steven was granted Freedom of the City of London in 2017, is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, Chartered College of Teaching, Chartered Institute of Educational Assessors and is a Chartered Teacher. He is a Liveryman of both the Worshipful Company of Educators and Worshipful Company of Musicians.



**Natalie Day**  
**Head of Strategy & Policy Insight, Sheffield Hallam University**

Natalie Day is the Head of Strategy & Policy Insight at Sheffield Hallam University. She was previously the Knowledge Exchange, Policy & Partnerships Manager in the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Sheffield. She was also formerly the Head of Strategy and Communications at SPRU, University of Sussex. Before taking up this post she worked as Head of Policy at the Oxford Martin School, University of Oxford, where she was responsible for establishing the School as a leading source of policy-relevant research on global challenges and opportunities. Through enabling stronger connections between academics and policy makers, Natalie worked to promote evidence based decision making globally and foster networks for robust exchange and advice. Prior to joining the SPRU, Natalie was a Senior Policy Adviser in the Royal Society's Science Policy Centre, where she led an ambitious project studying the changing landscape of science and innovation in the Islamic world. As part of this project, Natalie was lead researcher on a comprehensive study of the state of science in Malaysia. Natalie also managed a programme focused on building capacity in African science academies in Ethiopia, Ghana and Tanzania as well as contributing to broader analysis of global science and innovation networks. Natalie was previously a Senior Researcher at the UK think tank, Demos, specialising in global innovation policy, with publications including 'Knowledge Nomads' – focusing on the UK's ability to attract and retain talent. An Australian national, Natalie has also served as a Senior Ministerial Adviser to the Treasurer in the Government of Victoria as well as working to foster Asia-Australia engagement at the University of Melbourne. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Arts (Media Studies) and a Masters in Business Administration.



**Kirstie Donnelly MBE**  
**CEO City & Guilds**

Kirstie Donnelly MBE is Chief Executive at the City & Guilds Group, prior to this role she was the Group Managing Director for City & Guilds, ILM and DigitalMe brands operating globally. Kirstie joined City & Guilds Group in 2011 and has worked at the forefront of skills and education for over 30 years. As Chief Executive of the City & Guilds Group Kirstie is accountable for the external influencing of the broader skills agenda across Government and Ministers, and other key stakeholders, as well as the media. She also leads the strategic business interface on large complex integrated business relationships and opportunities. Throughout her career Kirstie has spearheaded the development of award winning products and services across the skills landscape both in the UK and internationally and is a passionate advocate of the role of digital and social media in transforming how people live, learn and work. Kirstie's commitment to this area was recognised when she was awarded an MBE in the Queens Honours for services to e-learning in the FE/Adult sector. Kirstie has been a Commissioner more recently on the Labour party's lifelong learning committee. In the past she has been an Apprenticeship Commissioner for the cross party Commission and was one of the original committee members of the David Blunkett's – Learning Age – Green paper back in 1998. Since September 2019 Kirstie has been a Trustee at the Prince's Trust.



### Laila Duaibes

#### Education & Life Skills Lead at World Vision JWG World Vision

Laila is an education specialist for Palestine and the MENA region. She has worked in Education for over 12 years attending to KG, School students and graduates in various fields of education. Working in a conflict ridden region, Laila contributed to designing and implementing contextualized national level life skills and dialogue programming for school students particularly those vulnerable children in remote areas and with disabilities. Currently she holds the technical lead position to the education and life skills programs for World Vision in Jerusalem, West bank and Gaza including programs for pre-school children, education in emergencies and child resilience using social emotional learning programs.



### Natascha Engel

#### Chief Executive Policy Connect

Natascha Engel is the Chief Executive of cross-party think tank Policy Connect. Natascha was Member of Parliament from 2005 to 2017 and has first-hand experience of the local impact of shale gas developments. Natascha brings with her a wealth of Parliamentary knowledge and experience both as Deputy Speaker and chair of the cross-party Backbench Business Select Committee. Natascha has also worked with the industry, regulators and government on how best to engage with, and listen to, local communities.



### Serdar Ferit

#### Co-Founder & CEO Lyfta

Serdar is the current CEO of Lyfta, and also spent years as a film director, producer, teacher and entrepreneur. A big part of his role is focused on engaging with teachers and school leaders, to better understand the issues they face and to drive our innovations so he can serve them as best he can. In his past life, Serdar worked in over 20 countries directing and producing documentary, fiction and commercial films, leading teams from 1 to over 100. These productions have been broadcast globally to over 100 million people and won numerous awards. Serdar was also an early adopter of 360 storytelling and Virtual Reality. In 2010 Serdar learned how to take and construct 360 images and has been working on immersive stories ever since. Serdar has also taught media studies, film-making and Virtual Reality storytelling at a number of schools, colleges and universities.





**Professor Fiona Forbes**  
**CEO and founder ConfigurED**

Fiona Forbes is the CEO and founder of ConfigurED – an education transformation consultancy eco-system with a specific focus on school leadership. Fiona has 30 years of experience and expertise in the leadership of schools from the early childhood, primary, secondary, tertiary and special education sectors. Fiona is Professor of Practice in the School of Education at La Trobe University Victoria, Australia, Board Chair of the Australian Special Education Principals' Association (ASEPA), Board Member of the Foundation for Education Development UK (FED) and a foundation member and participant of Atlantic Rim Collaboratory (ARC) that supports education system development since 2015. Fiona has a commitment to global education strengthened by her 6 years on the executive of the International Confederation of Principals (ICP). She held the four-year position of President Elect, President and Past President 2016-19 and was awarded life membership in 2019 for her services to global school leadership and education. Fiona was also awarded an Honorary Doctorate at the Australian Catholic University (ACU) in 2016 for services to special education.



**David Gallagher FIEP**  
**CEO NCFE**

David Gallagher is Chief Executive Officer at NCFE, educational charity and leader in vocational and technical learning. David has enjoyed a successful career in employment and skills for over 18 years. His diverse experience spans from the public sector, working for the Learning and Skills Council (now ESFA), to frontline delivery for several leading employment and skills providers in some of the most disadvantaged communities in the UK.



**Valerie Hannon**  
**The co-founder of both Innovation Unit and of the Global Education Leaders**

Valerie Hannon is a global thought leader, inspiring systems to re-think what 'success' will mean in the C 21st, and the implications for education. The co-founder of both Innovation Unit and of the Global Education Leaders Partnership, Valerie is a radical voice for change, whilst grounded in a deep understanding of how education systems currently work. After a distinguished career within education, Valerie now works independently to support change programs across the world. She has advised governments and worked with systems and schools on every continent, working with some of the most challenged as well as the leaders in education innovation. Valerie advised the OECD on its Education 2030 project. She is a regular keynote speaker and facilitator at international conferences and workshops, drawing upon her substantial research and publications. Valerie was the Australian Learning Lecturer for 2020 on the subject of The Future School. The resulting book FutureSchool is published by Routledge. In 2021 she received the Edefuturists' award for Outstanding Achievement in Education. Valerie is the Chair of the Haringey Education Partnership and a Trustee of Apps For Good.



**Adam Hawksbee**  
**Deputy Director Onward**

Adam Hawksbee is the Deputy Director and Head of Levelling Up at Onward. He was previously Head of Policy at the West Midlands Combined Authority, working with Mayor Andy Street to shape and deliver programmes on housing, transport, skills, and economic development. Adam is a graduate of the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, where he was a Kennedy Fellow, and has worked with US Mayors as a Research Fellow at the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative and during a period at the New York City Mayor's Office of Operations. He lives in the Jewellery Quarter in Birmingham.



**David Hughes CBE**  
**CEO Association of Colleges**

David Hughes is Chief Executive of the Association of Colleges, representing and supporting further education colleges to fulfil their role as anchor institutions, supporting over 2 million students each year. He was awarded a CBE for services to further education, particularly during the Covid-19 response. David has worked in post-16 education for over 25 years, including a decade as a senior civil servant. Before that he worked in Australia and the UK in community development, regeneration, welfare, employment and social housing. David holds several Board positions including with the World Federation of Colleges and Polytechnics and the Bell Foundation.



**Nasreen Hussain**  
**Head of SENDIASS Birmingham City Council**

Nas Hussain is a senior leader in Children's Services with a background in social work, SEND and law. She has designed and delivered frontline services to meet the needs of children and young people with complex needs. She has been at the forefront of setting the strategic direction to respond to the competing demands within the Local Authority. Nas has a refined capacity for exercising judgement in resolving issues. This skill set has enabled her to work at all levels with schools, education providers and cross-sector professionals. She has championed innovative approaches that push the boundaries, securing best outcomes for children and families, many who have experienced significant disadvantage, including poverty and deprivation. She has been at the forefront of parental partnership and engagement, enabling parents to support their children's learning as partners and co-educators. Nas leads on a SEND Rights Based Approach in the delivery of SENDIASS. The support offer to families as a result of the work of the SENDIASS team and its Independent Management Board has enabled thousands of children & young people to receive their SEND entitlement as defined in legislation. Throughout her career she has maintained an interest in research and evidence-based practice. This has enabled her to influence local and national policy as well as lead and manage exemplary service teams. She is a member of the West Midlands ACAMH Committee and has successfully utilised this platform for affording high quality CPD opportunities to Health, Social Care and Education professionals.



**Shaun Odili**  
**Member of the FED Learner Council**

Shaun is a Philosophy and Politics graduate from the University of York. He is an incoming graduate within the Foreign Exchange Division at the Bank of England. Currently, he is the Y20 youth employment delegate for the UK, a youth employment UK ambassador, a project advisory board member for The Young Foundation, a member of the FED Learners Council and part of the core team at an NGO called Do Good Africa. He was born in Nigeria but grew up in London and has keen interests in sports, fitness, music and cooking.



**Branwen Jeffreys**  
**Education Editor BBC**

Branwen Jeffreys is the Education Editor for BBC News. She reports on the policy and politics of schools, colleges and universities as well as broader issues effecting children and family life. In more than two decades as a journalist and broadcaster she has specialised in social and public policy. Before taking up her most recent role in 2015 she spent 11 years covering the politics of the NHS, patient experience of health services and research developments in healthcare. Branwen has broadcast from around the world for the BBC, presented programmes and devised multi media projects. She has a strong interest in evidence-based policy, and how people experience using public services.



**Larissa Kennedy**  
**National President at the National Union of Students**

Larissa Kennedy is the former President of the National Union of Students (NUS) which represents seven million students across further and higher education in the UK. Throughout her 2-year term in office, NUS sought to grasp at the root of a broken system to de-marketise, democratise and decolonise education & build a new vision for education. Larissa is also on the Board at Students Organising for Sustainability (SOS-UK), a charity set up by students and staff at NUS in 2019 to take climate justice work further and faster in the student movement. Further to this, she is a member of the team at the Free Black University, co-creating a radical, imaginative, and transformative hub for knowledge production centred on the healing and wellbeing of Black people. Prior to this, Larissa was Education Officer & Deputy President of Warwick Students' Union, where she founded the Warwick Decolonise Project. Larissa brings extensive experience from the youth sector, having formerly been on the Board of the British Youth Council and UK Youth Delegate to the Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities.



**Hannah Kirkbride**  
**CEO Career Matters**

Hannah Kirkbride is the Founder and CEO of Career Matters, a social enterprise established to improve access to education, employment and training for all. Committed to diversity and inclusion and enabling access to those most removed from traditional pathways into education and employment. Hannah has twenty years' experience both as a career, skills and apprenticeship practitioner delivering high quality support and as a senior leader delivering education, employment, training, skill and career development services across the UK and globally.



**Dame Ann Limb DBE DL FRSA**  
**Chair UK Innovation Corridor**

A Mancunian by birth, Dame Ann Limb DBE DL FRSA is a philanthropist, mover & Quaker. She is Chair of the City & Guilds of London Institute and from 2015-2021 was Chair of The Scouts, the UK's largest youth engagement charity. She is the first woman, and openly gay, to hold both these roles. She is also Chair of the UK Innovation Corridor, the country's leading sci-tech region from London to Cambridge and Chair of The Lloyds Bank Foundation. Between 1976 and 2001 Ann enjoyed a successful career in FE as a College Principal in Milton Keynes and Cambridge and in the civil service, where she was responsible for the UK government's flagship digital learning initiative, learndirect. Ann is Deputy Chair of The Prince's Foundation, a heritage-led regeneration charity, and Vice President of the social justice charity she founded in 1998, the Helena Kennedy Foundation. In the 2011 Birthday Honours, Ann was awarded the OBE, in 2015 'upgraded' to CBE, and in Jubilee Honours 2022 elevated to the rank of Dame Commander of the British Empire, DBE. In 2019, Ann was named #1 LGBTQ+ public sector role model in the OUTstanding List and one of the 50 most influential women born in the North of England in the Northern Power Women Power List.



**Jo Malone**  
**Executive Team Member FED**

Jo is passionate about the transformative power of education. Following 15 years in the classroom as a secondary teacher, AST, curriculum and pastoral leader, Jo worked as Senior Education Adviser and Senior Project Manager at the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change. There she had a lot of fun designing educational programmes, developing curriculum, training thousands of teachers and dialogue facilitators across the globe. She was privileged to build and develop networks of stakeholders including educators, educational leaders and government officials across 60 plus countries. Jo's work was fundamental to the innovation, scaling and embedding of the pioneering education programme, Generation Global. As well as working for FED, where she leads on the consultation and the creation and publication of the National Consultation Report 2022, Jo is the Education Director for Persona Education supporting curriculum, instructional design, pedagogy and onboarding for their life skills e-learning platform. She has co-founded and leads a women consultants and advisers in education group (WECAN), and she is a primary school governor. Jo loves the company of teenagers (especially good news considering she lives with a couple of them) and feels that teachers are her natural tribe.



**Claire Madzura**  
**Co-chair FED Learners Council**

Claire is a Co-Chair of the Learners' Council at The Foundation for Education Development and an Ambassador for the #iwill Movement. Alongside her studies at college, she spends her time supporting young people from underrepresented backgrounds to progress to further education. Ensuring that the barriers to education are tackled by equity from all stakeholders is important to her because she stands firmly with providing those who need the most support the tools they need to succeed first. Claire has worked with Teach First and UNICEF to help bridge the gap between stakeholders and hopes to shape a world in which every young person understands how powerful their voice is.



**Dr Anne Murdoch OBE**  
**Senior Advisor, College Leadership, ASCL**

Anne is Senior Advisor for College Leadership at the Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL), having been General Secretary of the Principals Professional Council and, for 17 years, a Principal and Chief Executive of a Further Education College. Anne qualified as a Primary School teacher following a degree in Social Sciences. Her PhD, in Education, was followed by work, as a University Researcher, on a project about fostering and adoption. Anne joined an FE college as a teacher, then moved to leadership roles and to Principal and CEO. Anne has an MBA and is a School Governors. Her OBE was awarded in 2012 for services to Further Education.



**Sir David Normington G.C.B**  
**Permanent secretary at the DFE 2001-2005**

Sir David is the Pro-Chancellor and Chair of Council of Warwick University. Sir David was a civil servant for 37 years, working in the fields of employment, education and criminal justice. He was Permanent Secretary at the Department for Education and Skills from 2001 to 2005, at a time when the Department was responsible for further and higher education and skills in addition to its responsibilities for children and schools. From 2006 to 2010 he was Permanent Secretary at the Home Office leading a department with over 30,000 staff and responsibility for controversial issues like immigration and law and order. He worked with five Home Secretaries over his five year term as Permanent Secretary and led a major transformation programme to rebuild the Home Office's capability. After retiring from the Civil Service he was for five years until 2016 the First Civil Service Commissioner and the Commissioner for Public Appointments regulating appointments to the civil service and public bodies, seeking to ensure that they were on merit after fair and open competition. He received a KCB in 2005 and was appointed GCB in the 2011 New Year's Honours list. He has an M.A. (Oxon) in Modern History and is a Chartered Fellow of the Institute of Personnel and Development. David is also a Trustee of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC).





**Jacqui O'Hanlon MBE**  
**Director of Learning, Royal Shakespeare Company**

As Director of Learning and National Partnerships, Jacqui leads an RSC team that helps thousands of young people and their teachers across the country experience the power of Shakespeare's language in their schools every year. Jacqui trained as an actor and started her career performing in theatres as well as touring adaptations of Shakespeare's work to schools. As an actor at the National Theatre, she began to lead some of their education work with young people and teachers, then became Artist in Residence for a Birmingham-based project, visiting primary and secondary schools in deprived areas of the city and using drama to raise self-esteem. Jacqui went to the RSC as a freelancer, working closely with primary schools in Stratford-upon-Avon through the TheatreLink scheme. A series of roles saw Jacqui creating on-stage work for young people and managing our professional development work before becoming Director of Learning in 2008.



**Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP**  
**Shadow Secretary of State for Education**

Bridget Phillipson MP grew up in Washington in North East England. After reading History at university, Bridget worked for Sunderland City Council before managing a refuge for victims of domestic violence. She entered Parliament as MP for Houghton & Sunderland South in 2010 and served as an opposition whip. After the 2015 general election she joined the Public Accounts Committee, and in April 2020 she was appointed to Keir Starmer's first Shadow Cabinet as Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury. In November 2021 she was promoted to be Shadow Secretary of State for Education.



**Laura-Jane Rawlings**  
**CEO Youth Employment UK**

Laura-Jane Rawlings is CEO of Youth Employment. She is a passionate campaigner for youth employment and the rights for all young people to access employment and have their voices heard on the issues that affect them. Laura-Jane believes that it is for all of us to create a youth friendly society so that young people can fulfil their potential. Laura-Jane founded Youth Employment UK in 2012, believing that there was a need to put young people at the heart of youth employment policy and services on a local and national level. Youth Employment UK is a not-for-profit, social enterprise that now supports more than 100,000 young people, employers, educators, third sector organisations and policy colleagues every month. Recognised as a leading youth employment expert Laura-Jane provides support, insight and expertise to many groups such as the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Youth Employment, the Youth Employment Group, Pearson Skills and Apprenticeship Group, DWP ESF Committees, she also supports the work of the Cabinet Office Inclusive Economy Partnership and the DCMS Youth Charter. Laura-Jane is a Board Member of the Youth Futures Foundation, is an Advisory Board for the Digital Futures at Work Research Centre (Digit) and has been a secondary school governor for 6 years. Laura-Jane has worked on a number of consultative projects with organisations such as the Department for Culture Media and Sport, Cambridge Local Authority, Northamptonshire Learning Partnership, Chilled Food Association, PiXL and WorldSkills UK. Laura-Jane has represented Youth Employment UK through a number of media outlets including BBC Breakfast, Channel 4 News, BBC Radio 4, FE News, Personnel Today and others.



### **Tony Ryan MIET FRSA**

#### **Chief Executive Officer Design and Technology Association**

Tony is CEO of the Design and Technology Association an organisation supporting over 32,000 teachers nationally. He joined the organisation in January 2018 following a long career as a secondary headteacher in two large London comprehensives. Tony entered teaching almost by accident having crashed out of school fairly dramatically and then refinding a love of learning through an apprenticeship route as a motor vehicle engineer. He trained in the last years of the ILEA and qualified initially as a teacher of design & technology, later taking an MA in Educational Studies majoring in the use of information technology and in the process converting to a teacher and leader of information technology and computing. Tony has been a trustee of ASDAN, was on the Education Steering Group for the Princes Teaching Institute, is a Fellow of The Royal Society of the Arts, a member of the IET and is currently on several educational steering groups working with the IET and Royal Academy of Engineering amongst others.



### **Dennis Simms**

#### **IntegratED Hub Lead / Senior Researcher Centre for Social Justice**

Dennis is the CEO of Simms Coaching and Consultancy and founding co-chair of Heads Forward (Teach First's National Network of Ambassador Head Teachers). Dennis has held leadership roles, in Secondary education, Post-16 and latterly Alternative Provision (AP), as Head of School. Through the education policy unit at The Centre for Social Justice, Dennis published the AP Quality Toolkit which is transforming the way AP quality is understood, evaluated, and improved at local and national levels. He has an MA in Educational Leadership, the National Professional Qualifications for Senior Leadership and Headship and is an alumnus of The Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford's Pathway to Success programme.



### **Noah Sobe**

#### **Senior Project Officer UNESCO**

Noah W. Sobe is Senior Project Officer on the Future of Learning and Innovation team at UNESCO in Paris where he recently helped to lead on the research and drafting of UNESCO's flagship futures of education report, Reimagining our futures together: A new social contract for education. He is a past president of the Comparative and International Education Society (CIES), co-editor of the journal European Education, and at UNESCO while on extended leave of absence from his faculty position at Loyola University Chicago.



**Michael Stevenson**  
**Senior Advisor PISA OECD**

Michael Stevenson leads innovation around the world on education purposes, policy and delivery. He is Senior Adviser Education and Skills at the OECD, where he established and leads the High Performing Systems for Tomorrow initiative. Through policy dialogues at Permanent Secretary level, involving Australia, Canada, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hong Kong, Singapore and the United Kingdom, the OECD is building a policy framework for countries interested in orienting their systems toward education for human flourishing. As Vice President Global Education at Cisco Systems, 2007-2013, he co-founded the Global Education Leaders Partnership. Returning to GELP in 2020, as co-chair with Valerie Hannon, he has focused it on the design and implementation of local learning ecosystems. Michael is a former Director of Education at the BBC and Director of Strategy, Communications and Technology in the UK Department for Education and Skills.



**Jonathan Slater**  
**Permanent Secretary at the DfE 2016-2020**

Jonathan Slater is a Visiting Professor at King's College London and Queen Mary's University London. He sits on the boards of the Charter Schools Educational Trust, Morley College, Sheffield Hallam University, and the Institute of Government. Jonathan was Permanent Secretary of the Department for Education until 2020, at the conclusion of a 20 year civil service career that included Justice, Defence, the Cabinet Office and No.10. Before that Jonathan worked in local government for over 10 years, ending up as Director of Education and Deputy Chief Executive at Islington Council, though his career actually started as a mathematical modeller for British Rail.



**Paul Swinney**  
**Director of Policy and Research Centre for Cities**

As Director of Policy and Research, Paul oversees the research programme and strategy of the Centre. He has published on a wide range of subjects relating to city economies, including the development of UK cities over time, the role that city centres play in the national economy and the trading relationships UK cities have with the rest of the world. Paul is a regular regional and national media commentator, including print, radio and TV, and speaks at conferences across the UK on subjects relating to the performance of city economies. He has an economics degree from Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge and a Postgraduate Certificate in Econometrics from Birkbeck College.



**Emily Sun**  
**Co-Centre Lead Place Matters**

Emily has a background in working with organisations in the health, education and social sectors, that are interested in building cultures, leadership and teams where collaboration, learning and innovation can flourish. She specialises working with organisations that are focused on community centred, multi-stakeholder approaches to enabling places to regenerate and thrive.



**Ellen Thinnesen OBE**  
**Chief Executive Education Partnership North East**

Ellen was appointed Chief Executive and Principal at Sunderland College in 2016 and became Chief Executive of Education Partnership North East in 2019. She chairs the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (NE LEP) Skills Advisory Panel and is also an NE LEP board member. Ellen is a member of the Association of College's (AoC) Board and actively represents Education Partnership North East on a variety of national, regional and local forums. Ellen began her career as a qualified nurse working in hospitals in Yorkshire and Humber and central London. She then went on to live and study in the United States before returning to England to pursue a career in Further and Higher Education. Ellen has previously held high-profile positions within the education sector in Greater Manchester and the Yorkshire and Humber region.



**Professor Mick Waters**  
**Former Director of Curriculum at QCA**

Mick Waters works with the schools in several parts of the UK and abroad to develop extended and innovative approaches to learning. During his career, Mick has been a teacher and head teacher before working at senior levels in Birmingham and Manchester and at a national level as Director of Curriculum. Over several years he has been asked to work in countries across the globe either with national governments or directly with schools to develop revised policy and practice for leadership, governance and classroom teaching. Mick is a patron of Values based Education and of SAPERE, promoting Philosophy for Children in learning. He is also the president of the Curriculum Foundation, promoting the power and potential of the whole curriculum. Mick supports the National Association for Environmental Education as a vice president and is vice chair of the CoEd Foundation promoting compassionate education. He has written and contributed to many books on the curriculum, teaching and learning, and leadership, as well as making presentations at numerous national and international conferences. His latest book, written with Tim Brighouse, is called 'About Our Schools: Improving on Previous Best' and was published in January 2022.



**Karen Wespieser MBE**  
**Chief Operating Officer Education Intelligence**

Karen Wespieser is an education researcher and has worked for the National Foundation for Education Research, CfBT Education Trust, and the BBC among others. She is currently COO of Teacher Tapp, a daily survey of teachers across England. During the pandemic, Karen led the creation of the specialist offer for Oak National Academy. She is editor of The ResearchED Guide To SEND and was awarded an MBE in 2021 for services to children with special educational needs. Karen is fascinated by education and in her spare time is a trustee of Greenshaw Multi Academy Trust and is a lay member of a school admissions appeals panel for her local authority.



**Rt Hon Munira Wilson MP**  
**Liberal Democrat Spokesperson for Education**

Munira Wilson is an experienced senior businesswoman with a professional, political and social track record, living in Whitton. Munira has lived in Twickenham since 2005, and now lives with her husband and young family in Whitton. Munira is a former Twickenham councillor who helped to secure road safety improvements, tackle crime and anti-social behaviour and worked to protect the local environment. Munira previously worked for a science and technology company leading on Brexit and health policy between 2016-2019. Before that, Munira has worked for health and children's charities, as well as the NHS, and holds a modern languages degree from Cambridge University. Locally, Munira will continue to champion local people's concerns by opposing Conservative plans for a third runway at Heathrow and improving air quality, holding South Western Railway and Network Rail to account over poor service and inaccessible stations and helping to tackle the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) funding crisis. She was elected in the 2019 General Election.



**Roger Wilson**  
**Director of Operations Black Lives in Music**

Roger Wilson has many years of experience on both sides of the stage as musician, educator, tour manager and administrator. Conservatoire trained, he has worked extensively in the commercial, jazz and classical sector with a wide range of artists from Lesley Garrett and Bryn Terfel to James Brown and Quincey Jones. He has also played in some of London's most successful music theatre productions. As an instrumental teacher and lecturer, Roger has worked throughout the UK music education sector at all levels. In recent years, he has been dedicated in his support for the professional development of aspiring young jazz musicians.





**Caroline Wright**  
**Director General BESA**

Caroline Wright is Director General of the British Educational Suppliers Association, the UK's national industry association for educational products and services. Representing more than 400 companies covering all aspects of education resources BESA carries out financial and due diligence checks on all its members as well as requiring them to adhere to a rigorous code of conduct so that educationalists can be confident that they are working with the UK's most trusted, quality educational suppliers. As well as working with leading UK suppliers BESA also runs EdTech Exchange, Europe's largest EdTech Founders networking group. Caroline joined BESA in 2012, becoming Director General role in 2016. She represents BESA on a range of Government and sector advisory boards including the Department for International Trade's Education Sector Advisory Group. She has held a range of positions sharing insights and expertise on the UK education suppliers sector including Co-Chair of the DfE EdTech Leadership Group, the Worlddidac Council, and Education Investor Advisory Board. She is a Trustee of the Education Media Centre, judge of a number of prestigious industry awards UK's Trade Association Excellence Awards, Council of British International Schools Awards, Education Investor Awards. Caroline has been a recipient of the Education Investor's prestigious 'Outstanding Contribution to Education' award and is a frequent contributor to charitable educational activities including roles as a school governor, and educational and careers speaker for schools and young people.



**Aliyah Irabor-York**  
**Founder Pupil Power**

Aliyah is a fierce change maker and the founder of Pupil Power, a national student-led movement challenging the reimagination of the future of education. Her advocacy strives to centre youth voices; whilst bridging the gap between young people and educational leaders and policy makers. Aliyah's critical work has been recognised through her nominations for the Telegraph and ITVs National Diversity Awards as 'Entrepreneur of Excellence'. She finished her A-Levels in 2021, and is now studying Education, Policy and International Development at the University of Cambridge. Most recently, Aliyah was appointed board member of Lyfta Ed- an immersive 360 degree learning platform.