



People, Place, Policy - Shaping our education system for the next decade

Speakers 2023





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Dr Steph Ainsworth

Dr Steph Ainsworth is an education researcher and teacher educator in Manchester Met's School of Teacher Education and Professional Development. She has several years' experience as a primary school teacher and has a passionate interest in teacher wellbeing. Steph is currently leading a three-year project, as part of the ESRC Education Research Programme, 'Decentring the resilient teacher', which brings together teachers, academics, the NEU and Education Support to promote teacher wellbeing by creating more resilient environments for teachers.

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Frances Akinde

Frances Akinde is a former headteacher of a Secondary Special School (11-19) for learners with Autism and associated difficulties and a qualified SENCO. Over the last 20 years, she has worked in a variety of roles across primary, secondary, special/Alternative Provision and local authority, from Art/Design Technology teacher to an SLCN advisory teacher liaising with speech and language therapists across a local authority. After discovering in her forties that she was neurodivergent and had a hearing impairment, Frances decided to use her lived experiences to offer training and support to ensure that our schools and workplaces are truly inclusive. In January 2023, Frances co-launched BAMEed SEND hub as part of the BAMEed Network, a diverse network for Educators which aims to ensure diversity and address racial inequities in Education. As a neurodivergent educator, Frances uses her experiences to support and mentor people who may be struggling in the workplace and in education. She is also an anti-racism coach.

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Jonas Andrew-Phillip

Jonas Andrew-Phillip is a Programme Management Apprentice at Lewisham Council, a Young International Multi-Award-Winning TEDx Speaker, Workshop Facilitator and Host. He facilitates career and personal progression workshops, programmes and speeches for young people. Using his own personal transformation story of wasteman to winner Jonas supports his peers to have an understanding that they have the untapped potential to achieve whatever they want in their life irrelevant of their background or circumstance. He also hosts the 'Let's Talk Facts' podcast where he interviews professionals, entrepreneurs and young people for the education and entertainment of others. When he is not delivering dynamic content Jonas likes to play basketball, meet new people, watch Football whilst eating Cookie Dough ice-cream or playing his PlayStation and many more things.

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Peter Atherton

Peter Atherton, Faculty of Arts Professional and Social Studies, School of Education, Liverpool John Moores University. Pete is a passionate, skilled and committed educator, I am now a Senior Lecturer and author. I am always learning and always educating. I have delivered numerous well-received lectures, presentations and training sessions to discuss my books for Sage - 50 Ways to Use Technology Enhanced Learning in the Classroom and for Routledge - Goal-Setting and Problem-Solving in the Tech-Enhanced Classroom: A Teaching and Learning Reboot. I present the Edtech Innovators podcast. Hear Pete Atherton's Podcast as part of the eAA's podacast series [here](#).

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Dame Kathryn (Kathy) August

Dame Kathryn (Kathy) August has spent 45 years working in and for public education. She had three secondary headships and has also been a Director of Education in two LEAs, worked as a senior adviser in the DfE, been a visiting professor at Salford Business School and worked as an interim CEO. She became a Dame in the 2014 New Years honours list. Her book Becoming an Academy School in the UK: With Principal (Cambridge Scholastic publications) was published in June 2022.

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Nicola Bailey

Nicola Bailey BSc (Hons), QTS, NPQH, MEd, BPS. Nic possesses over 20 years experience in the field of education. She is currently based in a Birmingham high school where she is an Assistant Headteacher responsible for SEN and inclusion. As a Deputy Safeguarding lead and strategic Mental Health lead, she also facilitates training on First Aid for Mental Health, Safeguarding and neurodiversity. In 2021 Nic became one of the regional coordinators for BAMEed West Midlands and in recent years has harnessed her attention on the Mental health and well-being of global majority children and staff in the education sector. Currently Nic is actively involved in creating a community for dialogue to inform and transform the interconnected links between education, race, SEMH, Wellbeing and Safeguarding.

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David Baker

David Baker, BArch(Hons), PGCE, MPhil. Following careers in architecture and teaching, and armed with a Masters in Education Research, David is now in the third year of doctoral research into the relationship between staff wellbeing and the design of schools. His research has shown that new policy options exist at the interface between employee experience design (EEX) and the design of staff accommodation in secondary schools.

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Sir Michael Barber

Sir Michael Barber is one of the leading Education and Government experts of the last 20 years. He was once described by Time magazine as 'the single most influential educator on the face of the earth'. In April 2021 his latest book *Accomplishment: How Ambitious and Challenging Things Get Done* was published by Penguin. It identifies the pattern of accomplishment across many fields including sport, business and science as well as government. It has been described by Matthew Syed as "an excellent analysis". His previous book *How to Run a Government so that Citizens Benefit and Taxpayers Don't go Crazy*, also published by Penguin, has been influential among politicians and officials worldwide. From 2017 to 2021 he was Chair of the Office for Students which regulates the higher education system in England. He served as Chief Adviser to the Secretary of State for Education on School Standards from 1997 to 2001 during which time school performance improved significantly. In 2001 he set up the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit in No 10 Downing Street to ensure the successful implementation of the Prime Minister's priorities in domestic policy including education and health. Having worked as Head of McKinsey's Global Education Practice and as Pearson's Chief Education Adviser, Michael now leads his own company, Delivery Associates. He is also Chancellor of the University of Exeter and an Honorary Fellow of Queen's College, Oxford. He currently advises the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the skills agenda and is Chair of the South West Social Mobility Commission. He is also Chair of Somerset County Cricket Club.

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Jo Blundell

Jo has a background in public service, starting her career in the NHS and then working in consulting and in public service delivery organisations. She trained as a service designer and is a Design Expert for the UK Design Council. In the last 10 years she has focused on enabling multi-agency collaboration as Executive Director of the Government Outcomes Lab at the Blavatnik School of Government, an Associate at Collaborate CIC, owner of Future Public and now at Place Matters. Whilst a Fellow of the Blavatnik School of Government she led research into how local government collaborates with communities to achieve change. Jo is the Co-Lead at Place Matters alongside Emily Sun.

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Elaine Bowker

Elaine Bowker is the Principal of The City of Liverpool College and Chief Executive of the City of Liverpool College Group. Previously she was Strategic Director at Manchester City Council where she had responsibility for transforming the organisation and creating over £120m savings. Prior to that she was the Executive Director within the former Learning and Skills Council responsible for Greater Manchester, and previously the Director of Area for Greater Merseyside, giving her strong ties to both city regions. She currently sits on the boards of Liverpool City Chamber of Commerce, Tate Liverpool, Scottish Power and was a Commissioner on the Liverpool Fairness Commission, as well as a member of the LEP Advisory Council.



Professor John Byrne

John Byrne is Professor of Useful Art at Liverpool John Moores University's School of Art and Design where he is also Head of the Institute of Art and Technology. John is also currently Researcher and Writer in Residence at the Whitworth Art Gallery (Manchester, UK) where he is Lead Researcher and Research editor for the Decentralising Political Economies Project/Platform (www.dpe.tools) which he developed on behalf of The Whitworth Art Gallery in collaboration with the Association of Arte Útil and the City Lab. From 2015 to 2018 Byrne took on the role of Co-ordinator for the L'Internationale 'Constituencies' Research Strand and was lead editorial on the resulting L'Internationale publication 'The Constituent Museum: Constellations of Knowledge, Politics and Mediation' in 2018. Byrne has been an active member of The Association of Arte Útil (AAU) since 2013 when he collaborated with The AAU, Grizedale Arts and Tate Liverpool to install and run a temporary 'Office of Useful Art' during Tate Liverpool's 'Art Turning Left' show in 2013/2014. Since then Byrne has also coordinated a series of pop up Offices of Useful Art at Liverpool School of Art and Design, The Granby 4 Streets area of Toxteth in Liverpool, and at the Florrie Institute in Liverpool. Via The City Lab, Byrne is committed to helping to growing and develop the Association of Arte Útil network as a worldwide constituency if artists, designers, activists, and makers who wish to explore ways in which we can use as art as a ground-up tool for imagining ourselves otherwise.



Steve Chalke MBE

Steve Chalke MBE, Founder and Leader of Oasis. Steve is a social entrepreneur, justice campaigner, author, motivational speaker, church leader and former UN Special Advisor on Human Trafficking. Steve trained in theology and in 1985 founded the Oasis Trust – which has now grown into a large group of charities – which he still leads. Oasis now has over 5,500 staff, as well as many more thousands of volunteers. Oasis pioneers housing, education, healthcare, and many other community initiatives in the UK and elsewhere around the world. Steve also serves as the senior minister of Oasis Church, Waterloo, in central London. Steve holds an MBE, a number of honorary fellowships and a doctorate from Staffordshire University, all awarded for his work in social inclusion and justice. In 2017 Steve was installed as a Canon of Southwark Cathedral. Oasis currently works in 60 local neighbourhoods around the world – 36 of which are in the UK – where it seeks to bring together the resources, expertise and infrastructure that we have developed in order to build on existing strengths and assets in the local community. Wherever Oasis works its goal is to build, and to help others build, integrated, high quality and diverse services to benefit local communities through a wide variety of activities and partnerships. It serves and respects all people regardless of their gender, race, ethnic origin, religion, age, sexual orientation or physical and mental capability and works within local communities to create neighbourhoods in which people feel known, able to thrive and can build deep and nourishing relationships. Steve lives in Central London where he also serves as the leader of Oasis work in the Waterloo community. Oasis Hub Waterloo currently serves its local community through the delivery of a children's centre, a primary school, a secondary school, various adult education opportunities, a foodbank, a debt advice centre, a church, a community farm, a coffee house, the local public library, a higher education college, a range of youth work schemes and a breadth of other programmes.



Tom Clark CBE

Tom Clark CBE was formerly Chief Executive of George Spencer Foundation School and Technology College in Nottingham during which time the school received consecutive 'outstanding' Ofsted reports. For 3 years he was Associate Director of the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (SSAT) leading on workforce-remodelling and helping to develop and network university accredited programmes for Deputy Head Teachers in Hong Kong, Australia, and The United States who were preparing for Headship. Working with the DfE he published booklets on 'benchmarking and financial planning', and 'workforce reform' and he helped create the 'Raising Achievement Transforming Learning' programme. For 6 years Tom was Chairman of FASNA (Freedom and Autonomy for Schools – National Association) and advised successive Secretaries of State on policy matters and he wrote a publication on effective financial management in schools. At the invitation of different Secretaries of State, Tom served on two 'special advisory boards' looking at the role of Local Authorities in an academised system and another on the development of a 'national fair funding' model for schools. Tom served on a number of Interim Executive Boards in failing Academies. For 4 years he chaired Govnet's Advisory Education Board helping to re-shape their 'Schools and Academies (biannual) Shows'. Since December 2018 Tom has been a Board Member of ATT. He is a strong advocate of the post- Covid need to re-set aspects of the education system and he contributes to the work of international networks on this agenda.



Ellie Costello

Ellie Costello is a director at Square Peg CIC and champions the unique talents of every child. Square Peg challenges the one-size-fits-all education system which fails a third of all children and pushes increasing numbers out of it, into the margins. In a previous incarnation, Ellie enjoyed a successful career working in the media as a producer. She has two children with complex needs spanning education, health, mental health and social care which brought her own mental health and blocked care challenges. Now a therapeutic parent, Ellie's passions lie in neuroscience, child development, interpersonal neurobiology and mental health. She works as an Expert by Experience and strategic parent-professional stakeholder informing cross-sector service review, redevelopment and delivery across joint working partners and education. Ellie joined Square Peg CIC as a Director to develop her interest in shifting paradigms to effect cultural and systemic change on behalf of all children, young people and families who experience barriers to school attendance. Ellie advocates social model-thinking, placing trauma-informed practice, relationships and personalisation at the centre of positive, meaningful, sustainable outcomes.

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Sherry Coutu CBE

Sherry Coutu CBE. Sherry is a serial entrepreneur, philanthropist and angel investor with decades of experience gained in primary, secondary, FE, HE & workforce education. She currently chairs Workfinder, Founders4Schools & Maths4Girls and serves as a director / advisor / Trustee on the boards of Pearson, Raspberry Pi, Digital Boost, the Scaleup Institute and National Numeracy. Previous NED and advisory roles in the education sector include RM plc, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge Assessment, Cambridge University & LinkedIn. Sherry has been voted by TechCrunch as the best CEO mentor/advisor in Europe, by Wired magazine as one of the top 25 'most influential people in the wired world', by Veuve Cliquot as Purpose Business Woman of the year and by BIMA and Computer Weekly as the Most Influential woman in the UK IT Industry. She was awarded Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) for services to entrepreneurship in the New Year's Honours List 2013 and she was invited to author the Scaleup Report on how to drive UK economic growth in Nov 2014 by the Government. Sherry has an MBA from Harvard Business School, an MSc (with distinction) from the London School of Economics, and a BA (Hons with distinction) from the University of British Columbia, Canada. She has been awarded Honorary PHD's from The University of Bristol, Manchester University, St. Andrews University and the Open University for her work on how Education drives Economic Growth.

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Patrick Craven

Patrick Craven. Executive Director – Policy, Strategic Partnerships and Stakeholder Engagement – City & Guilds UK. Patrick has over 30 years experience in the field of accreditation, assessment design and educational technology. From the design of educational resources with MESU/NCET and BECTa to running of post-sales technology support departments with Apple Computer, his career has always addressed the fusion of education, skills development and assessment technologies. For the last 20 years this work has focussed on the specific field of learning and assessment research and development linked to Government Policy and national accreditation programmes. This spanned work with the RSA Examinations Board, OCR Examinations, Cambridge Assessment Group and now he leads on Strategic Partnerships, Stakeholder Policy and Research work for City & Guilds. The role considers the growing impact of Policy and new technologies on the education and skills industry. It also identifies initiatives to enable City & Guilds to develop and extend the range and quality of learning and assessment products and services they offer. Helping people to get work, develop on the job and progress in their careers. Helping employers, regions and the UK economy overall to prosper. Throughout his career he has remained committed to the notion of 'fit for purpose' assessment and learning solutions based on evidence-based research. Patrick currently sits on the UK eAssessment Advisory Group, Joint Council for Qualifications, West Midlands BITC Leadership Board and is an advisory member of the Federation of Awarding Bodies Board and eAssessment Association. He sits on the planning committee for the European Association of Test Publishers Conference, is a Trustee of the Mitchell City of London Education Foundation and a member of the Society of Leadership Fellows.

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Jenna Crittenden

Jen Crittenden is curriculum design lead for a national project called Rethinking Curriculum at the Chartered College of Teaching. Prior to joining the Chartered College of Teaching Jen was a headteacher, senior leader, curriculum designer and EY/KS1 teacher in the UK and for Forces schools in Germany. During her time in Germany she became very focussed on the impact of play, outdoor learning and pupil wellbeing throughout the curriculum and has championed for the voice of EY professionals and practice and the benefit to wider education. Jen was part of the inaugural team who opened a 3 form free school and as a Head she built a new school building focussed on outdoor learning access and nature. Jen is passionate about curriculum design based on place and need rather than a political ideology. She has a keen interest in developing confidence and knowledge in schools around sustainability, especially as an overarching principle for curriculum. Jen has completed her MaEd and NPQH, served as a school governor and chair for an infant school and independent school, acted as a coach and mentor for numerous years. Jen now acts as a trustee for several educational charities. Jen is a keen advocate for flexible working, supporting parent teachers to stay in the profession and enhancing the voice of female leaders within education.

Connect here on [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), or visit [Rethinking Curriculum Project](#)



Ellie Cross

Ellie Cross - I'm Ellie, a member of the FEA's Youth Steering Group. I joined the group in November 2021, and one of my biggest responsibilities, since then, is to coordinate the FEA's Youth Bulletin which is filled with youth perspectives on education-related news and reforms. I have worked with the group on important issues such as the Augar Review, Child Q, and the Ofsted Strategy; all of which have been publicly responded to or discussed with policymakers. Additionally, I work as Tutor Engagement Manager at the Tutor Trust, after working as an intervention tutor from 2018-2020 in several schools with large numbers of Pupil Premium. Working as a tutor ignited my passion for closing the attainment gap in Britain as well as ensuring we are offering the same opportunities to children of all backgrounds. Now, I work with hundreds of tutors to ensure they are supported enough to continue pursuing this mission.



Dr Ceri Daniels

Dr Ceri Daniels, Director of School of Education, Liverpool John Moores University. Appointed Director in July 2022 after a short period in the interim role - Ceri co-ordinated the School of Education's move from the historic, suburban IM Marsh site, to our brand-new building in the city centre of Liverpool. Ceri is proud to lead the School of Education in LJMU alongside our talented and committed academic, professional support and School leadership teams. As Director, Ceri is responsible for overall academic leadership, operational management and strategic development of the School. She leads an ambitious, vibrant community, committed to Social Justice and working in partnership with our students, researchers and stakeholders to harness the transformational power of education in local, national and international contexts.

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Elijah Denning

Elijah Denning. Hi I'm Elijah, I'm 17 and from the West Midlands, I am currently studying A-Levels, and I hope to study Education at university. In the future I wish to contribute to educational research with a specific focus on the destinations of marginalised students and how to best enhance outcomes. The alternative provision education I experienced during secondary school fuelled my interest in improving the education system for all pupils and furthering my understanding of the social policy behind education. This is my first year on the FEA Youth Steering Group and I am also Chair of the Careers and Enterprise Company Youth Advisory Group.



Emma Dickenson

Emma Dickinson is a Principal Policy Officer with Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, working in the Employment and Skills Team. Emma leads on LCR-CA's education support programme working with the 6 local authorities in Liverpool City Region to support improved outcomes for children and young people. She also leads for LCR-CA in a number of areas of partnership work including the Cradle to Career programme, a place-based change "hyper local" initiative. Emma has worked with Liverpool John Moores University to establish the Centre for Educational Leadership for which she sits on the Advisory Board. She also focuses on long term skills planning and the 16-19 landscape including T-Levels. Emma has over 20 years experience within teaching, schools and education, and has held a number of Senior leadership positions in secondary schools across the North West including in Liverpool City Region. She has also worked for senior national politicians advising and supporting work on a variety of issues including Education and Health and Wellbeing. Emma holds a B.Ed (Hons) and National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH).

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Salise Dourmouh

Salise Dourmouh, Senior Associate Geldards LLP, has over 10 years' experience in the legal field and 6 years with a specialist practice in SEN. Salise has worked on behalf of parents at a leading Appellant City Law Firm and on behalf of local authorities as their in-house SEN and Education Lead. This has provided her with 3-dimensional understanding of the field and an enhanced approach to her practice. Salise uses this experience to assist children and young people with SEN to achieve their best possible outcomes in their education and future lives. During her career, Salise has developed a jargon-free, practical, and collaborative approach, to try and achieve the best results for her clients as quickly and as cost-effectively as possible. Salise is an experienced advocate and holds many training sessions for those wanting to learn about SEN Tribunal processes and final hearings. She is a member of the Education Law Association. Salise is also bi-lingual and can speak fluent Turkish.

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Ali Durban

Ali Durban is a parent and co-founder of Gesher, an all-through school designed especially for children who are differently able and who learn differently. Gesher School has been awarded Ofsted outstanding twice since it opened in 2017. Ali is also the founder of the Gesher Assessment Centre, which offers a bespoke multi-disciplinary assessment, diagnosis and report service for children and young people who may have ADHD, Autism, or a range of varying learning differences. Ali's journey from exhausted SEND parent to co-founder of a thriving school community has transformed her into a ringleader for system-wide transformation. Ali currently co-chairs a SEND council for the Foundation of Education Development which is creating a 10-year plan and vision for UK education. Ali also sits on the Education Council for the Autism Centre of Excellence.

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Dr Karen Edge

Dr. Karen Edge is currently a Reader in Educational Leadership at UCL Institute of Education and recently served as Pro-Vice Provost (International) at University College London, UK. Karen has conducted research in over 30 countries and has recently completed a 6 jurisdiction study of teacher motivation and retention. Karen's Global City Leaders Project worked with Generation X (under 40-year-old) school leaders in London, New York City and Toronto to understand more about their work, lives and ambitions. Karen is also preparing two books on Generation X leaders (Routledge) and City-based education policy contexts and the influence on school leaders (Bloomsbury). She sits on ESRC (UK), Danish and Swiss National Research Review Panels and the Advisory Panel for International School Leadership Principals [<http://internationalschoolleadership.com/>] in Ontario. She is Past Editor-in-Chief of Educational Assessment, Evaluation and Accountability (EAEA) and a current Editorial Board Member for EAEA, School Leadership and Management and Leadership and Policy in Schools. She completed her Ph.D. in knowledge management and educational reform at the Ontario Institute of the Education/ University of Toronto. Karen is a highly sought-after keynote speaker. She is known for being able to blend theory and practice with insight and humour.

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Nansi Ellis

Nansi Ellis. Nansi is an Education Policy Consultant providing expertise in developing policy, influence and strategy. Her work includes developing and supporting Commissions and campaigns, providing policy direction and building relationships for impact. Currently, she is working with the Edge Foundation and Rethinking Assessment, bringing together experts to unpick the thinking around a Baccalaureate and to develop ideas for change. Nansi was previously Assistant General Secretary for education policy at the National Education Union, and for ATL, the Education Union, leading policy development across early years, primary and secondary education, including teacher professionalism and agency. She is a Trustee for Culham St Gabriel's Trust and for the Association of Citizenship Teaching. She is particularly interested in how policy is made, and how we can do it better.

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Natascha Engel

Natascha Engel was Member of Parliament for North East Derbyshire from 2005 to 2017. In that time, she set up and chaired the Backbench Business Select Committee and was Deputy Speaker. After leaving Parliament, Natascha was partner at policy and opinion research agency Public First before establishing cross-party and cross-sector think tank Palace Yard which works with academics and industry to improve policy engagement and impact.

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Pelumi Fatayo

Pelumi Fatayo. Heyy! My name is Pelumi and I'm from Manchester. I'm 23 years old and a recent graduate from The Manchester Metropolitan University. I am very passionate about making education more equitable and equal for all. I love being creative and I write songs and Poetry. I am an #iwill Ambassador and I host a podcast called Crisis Talk which is where we debate, discuss and dissect issues which directly and indirectly affect the Black community.

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David Gallagher

David Gallagher is Chief Executive Officer at NCFE, a leading educational charity, with business operations in Awarding, Assessment and Learning Technologies and Resources. David initially joined NCFE in 2018 as Managing Director of NCFE EPA Plus, leading a new team to deliver End-Point Assessment for apprenticeships. NCFE is the 3rd largest Awarding Organisation in technical and vocational education in the UK and has recently been selected by Government to develop and accredit 6 T Level pathways. NCFE's core purpose is to 'promote and advance learning' and all NCFE businesses play a role in supporting learners to achieve the best possible education, career and life outcomes. David has enjoyed a successful career in employment and skills for over 18 years, spanning from frontline delivery in some of the most disadvantaged communities in the UK to his current role as CEO of an educational charity that is particularly focussed on supporting the most disadvantaged. David's diverse career, has shaped his perspectives on education, skills and employment. This has included; working the public sector for the Learning and Skills Council (now ESFA) where he was heavily involved in qualification reform policy and the introduction of the QCF, working with several leading national employment and skills providers, including: Working Links and Ingeus, during periods of significant market shift, such as; the introduction of 'payment by results', twice being nominee for an Ofsted inspection and also working with a variety of devolved authorities and stakeholders in the design and delivery of locally responsive skills provision.

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Sir Paul Grant

Sir Paul Grant was Headteacher at Robert Clack Comprehensive School in the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham from 1997-2017. Previously he had taught in schools in the Australia, USA and in the North of England. Robert Clack is featured in Ofsted's influential study, 'Twelve Outstanding Secondary Schools – Excelling against the odds' (2009). Paul has served as a National Leader in Education and was a member of Business in the Community's Education Board for over ten years. He has been actively involved in school and system Improvement having been involved with the London Challenge from the outset. Paul was knighted for services to local and national education, appointed a Deputy Lieutenant for Greater London and was bestowed the Freedom of Barking and Dagenham in 2009. In 2012 he was appointed Honorary Fellow of the Faculty of Education at the University of Hull, and Visiting Professor of the Faculty of Health, Social Care and Education at Anglia Ruskin University. Paul has been a member of the Premier League's National Advisory Group on Education for over ten years and he has been a coach, leadership and executive mentoring consultant at the Premier League since that time. He is also a Premier League Education Advisor and an Education Advisor for England FA. In 2017 Robert Clack was highlighted for best practice in a DFE report (Creating a culture: how school leaders can optimise behaviour) on how outstanding behaviour is created and embedded in UK Schools. Paul is Visiting Professor of Global Education and Learning at Coventry University and is the Education Advisor to the Liverpool City Region Mayor. He is also President of the Hull University Alumni.



Sharon Hague

Sharon Hague, Senior Vice President, UK Schools, Pearson. Sharon is Senior Vice President at Pearson, where she has worked for over 20 years. She is responsible for the development and delivery of qualifications and assessments, together with providing primary and secondary with high-quality teaching and learning resources. She has extensive experience of working closely with governments, schools and other partners to provide services that help children and young people make progress in their lives. Sharon is an advocate for inclusivity both in the workplace and within education. Sharon graduated from Oxford and trained as a qualified teacher and taught in schools in Essex and Hertfordshire for eight years. She is a speaker for the charity, Speaker for Schools, and is a governor at a secondary and primary school.

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Joe Hallgarten

Joe Hallgarten is CfEY's new Chief Executive Officer. Since starting his career teaching for five years in urban primary schools, Joe has 20 years' experience of leading and influencing education change as a programme leader, researcher and policy analyst. He has authored many reports and spoken across the world on a wide range of education issues, including on teacher development, curriculum reform, innovation in school systems, and creative learning. He has also designed, led and offered strategic support for a wide range of education programmes, in the UK and internationally. This has included contributions to professional development for teachers, school and system leaders. Previous roles have included: Head of Education with the Institute for Public Policy Research (1999-2003); Director of Programmes with Creative Partnerships and Creativity, Culture and Education (2004-2011); Director of Education then Global Director with the RSA (2012-2017); Principal Consultant with the Education Development Trust (2017-2020). He has also led projects as consultant for the UK Department for Education, the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit, and London 2012. Joe spent 2020-21 in two part time interim roles: as head of curriculum Development for the LETTA Multi Academy Trust in East London; and as interim director of the Hertscam Network, an international teacher leadership charity. A long term resident of Hackney and parent of three children, Joe is also a trustee for Fuel Theatre, and a member of Na'amod.

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Dr Craig Hammond

Dr Craig Hammond is a Reader in 'Pedagogies and Critical Theory', and an award winning educator – being recognised as a National Teaching Fellow in August 2022. He started his career as a Further Education lecturer in 1999 at Blackburn College, and in 2002 moved across to the University Centre to develop and teach on the BA (Hons) Social Science, Joint Honours, and Education Studies degree programmes. He gained his PhD in Sociology – from Lancaster University – in 2012; and recognition as a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (SFHEA) in 2015. Craig joined the LJMU School of Education in February 2017. Craig's writing and research traverses the areas of the philosophy of education; political philosophy and education; utopia and pedagogy; creative autobiography; complexity and knowledge; and, College Based Higher Education. He has written and published in the areas of utopia and pedagogy; film and philosophy; and personal autobiography. His 2017 publication 'Hope, Utopia and Creativity in Higher Education', reappraises ideas and concepts associated with Ernst Bloch, Roland Barthes, and Gaston Bachelard, with a view to enhancing the transformative, creative and collaborative potential of education. Much of his work focuses on democratising knowledge and the learning experience. Craig is a member of the British Educational Research Association (BERA), co-vice-chair of LJMU's 'Centre for Educational Research' (CERES), and a managing editor for the education-based journal PRISM. As part of his CERES role, he leads and coordinates the annual seminar series; he also works closely with other Northwest colleges and wider College Based Higher Education (CBHE) providers. He coordinates the CERES 'Critical Pedagogies' research group and is an editor and event organiser for the Cultural Difference and Social Solidarity (CDSS) network.

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Valerie Hannon

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 the Innovation Unit, 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, and is now working on its High Performing Systems for Tomorrow program. She is a regular keynote speaker and facilitator at international conferences and workshops, drawing upon her substantial research and publications. Her best-selling book THRIVE (Cambridge University Press 2022) has been highly influential. Valerie was the Australian Learning Lecturer for 2020 on the subject of The Future School. The resulting book FutureSchool is published by Routledge. Her most recent publication is A new politics for transforming education (CSE Melbourne March 2023).

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Phoebe Hanson

Phoebe Hanson - Esmée Fairbairn Foundation Consultant, COP26 & COP27 Delegate, Politics Undergraduate. Phoebe Co-coordinated Mock COP, a conference uniting youth from 140+ countries to share opinions, innovative ideas, and lived experiences surrounding the climate crisis. Phoebe established the Dais Speakers Agency at Force of Nature, training and platforming public speakers on climate and social justice aged 16-30 and has also Supported the UK Department for Education to convene a joint event of education and environment ministers at COP26 to advance climate teaching and learning.

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Penelope Harrison

Penelope Harrison. Penelope is an exceptional advocate for the rights of children, women and disabled people. The former chair of young trustees at Whizz-Kidz, and the serving co-chair of The Learners' Council at The Foundation for Education Development, she balances this work with her internship at Plan International and her studies in law school. Penelope's dedication has a track-record of bringing about equitable policy changes - her supportive and uplifting leadership style galvanising those she works with along the way. Throughout her decade-long career, her personal qualities and experiences have exemplified what it is to be committed to positive change. She is greatly looking forward to sharing this with you today.

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Stephen Henry

Stephen has nearly 30 years of experience in education in many roles including teacher, senior leader, principal, lecturer, and consultant. His senior leadership roles took in both local authority schools and academies across the North West of England and in some of the most deprived areas of the country. He is passionate about improving the life chances of young people and developing the potential of adults through coaching. After his headship post Stephen moved into higher education working on Initial Teacher Training programmes and delivering education undergraduate courses. In his current role with Cognition Education Stephen is helping to deliver the Transition to Teach programme for career changers and working to develop partnerships for new projects in the UK with a current focus on climate change and sustainability.

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Nasreen Hussain

Nasreen Hussain. Nas was a senior leader within the field of Children Services with a background in Social Work, SEND & Education Law. Nas has designed and delivered front line services to meet the needs of children & young people with complex needs and multi-dimensional vulnerabilities. She has been at the forefront of setting the strategic direction to respond to the competing demands within a number of local authorities. In particular, Nas has a refined ability to exercise sound 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 and secured best outcomes for children and families, many who have experienced significant disadvantage, including poverty and deprivation. Nas has demonstrated exemplary practice in relation to parental partnership and engagement that enabled parents to support their children's learning as partners and co-educators. The support structures that this work embedded resulted in effective strategies for managing behaviour and raising the attainment of vulnerable learners. Throughout her career Nas has maintained a keen interest in research and evidence based practice. This has led to Nas influencing local and national Education Policy as well as lead and manage effective and efficient service teams. Nas served on the Council for Disabled Children's, Special Educational Consortium, to work with the DfE on formulating and implementing SEND Reforms. Nas 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 & Education professionals. Nas has successfully completed the Aspirant Director of Children's Services Programme.

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Gillian Keegan MP

Gillian Keegan MP is the Conservative MP for Chichester, and has been an MP continuously since 8 June 2017. She currently holds the Government post of Secretary of State for Education.

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Martin Kerridge

Martin Kerridge is a Lecturer in the Centre for Educational Leadership at Liverpool John Moores University. He has held leadership posts in secondary, further and higher education, including two secondary headships and the leadership of Initial Teacher Training programmes. Martin has been a Governor in primary, FE and Pupil Referral Unit settings, including as Chair. He has Fellowships of the Chartered Management Institute, the Chartered College of Teaching, the Royal Society of Arts and the Higher Education Academy. He also a member of the British Educational Leadership, Management and Administration Society (BELMAS). Martin holds MEd and MBA degrees and has a specific research interest in referent leadership, ethics, organisational performance and the impact that leaders have across organisations and communities. This experience informs Martin's work across the Centre for Educational Leadership. Martin is a Chartered Manager and an Affiliate Member of the European Mentoring and Coaching Council, committed to continuing professional development which delivers measurable impact, with a focus on developing people and capabilities through coaching to improve performance. He is also a Microsoft Certified Educator, engaged with technology enhanced learning and curriculum development for the twenty-first century. Martin is committed to education and leadership as transformative influences, which inspire individuals and communities to fulfil dreams and achieve ambitions.

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Hannah Kirkbride

Hannah Kirkbride, BA (Hons), PG Dip (QCG). 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 services across the UK and globally. Founder and CEO of Career Matters. Career Matters is a career development organisation working with education and employers to create diversity and inclusion pathways. Thrive - Designed, developed and established a digital career platform and hybrid career coaching programme for employers, VCSEs and groups most removed from education, employment or training. Thrive community improves destination outcomes and create tangible career opportunities. Lived Experience Charter (2020 – ongoing) Career Matters led by Hannah Kirkbride has been commissioned by NHS England and Improvement to design, co-produce the Lived Experience Charter which is part of the NHS People Plan and supports an open and inclusive NHS workforce. Health and Justice Network Member, National Health and Justice Team NHS England (2022 – ongoing). Member of the Ofsted Social Care National Consultative Forum for Care Leavers (2020 – ongoing). TedxNHS Speaker - How the care system affects career prospects | Hannah Kirkbride | TEDxNHS - YouTube.

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Lord Jim Knight

Lord Jim Knight, The Rt Hon Lord Knight of Weymouth works in education, digital technology and as a legislator. He is a director of Suklaa Ltd, providing advice services to UK and international clients working in technology for education and learning, international schooling, and teacher engagement. Jim also regularly speaks and facilitates events for a range of clients, adding to Suklaa's expertise in increasing the engagement created by education events. Jim worked for many years as the Chief Education and External Officer at Tes Global Ltd. In over six years he co-founded Tes Institute in 2014, which is now the fifth largest qualifier of teachers in England; he has also managed Tes Resources, a global teacher community of 13.5 million users. Jim is also one of the founders of X Rapid Group, a French/US business using iOS devices to power microscopes with artificial intelligence. Current applications for their technology include the diagnosis of malaria in blood and of asbestos fibres and mould spores in air samples. As a UK government minister and MP, Jim's portfolios included rural affairs, schools, digital and employment. He was a member of Gordon Brown's Cabinet 2009-2010, before joining the Lords after the 2010 General Election. He is the Honorary President of COBIS, is on the Nord Anglia Education Advisory Board, sits on the Global Advisory Council for BETT, and is the Chair of CAST (Centre for Acceleration of Social Technology) that is leading on the shift of the charity sector into the use of digital tools and approaches.

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Keya Lamba

Keya Lamba is the Co-Founder of Earth Warriors, an innovative comprehensive climate education school curriculum for 3-11 year olds. Keya is an early childhood education specialist and over the past nine years has taught in early childhood classrooms, designed and facilitated teacher professional development and created play-based curricula for low-resource settings. Keya has a Master's in International Education Policy from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, where she was an Early Childhood Education Zaentz Fellow, & an undergraduate degree in International Development and Chinese from UCLA.

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Robin Landman OBE

Robin Landman OBE CCMI. Robin is a founder member of the Black Leadership Group, member of the Executive Team and a Director of BFELG UK Ltd, the not-for-profit company that is the legal entity for BLG Anti-Racism activities. In addition, he is former Vice Chair of Governors at Lewisham College and a member of the Chartered Management Institute Race Equity Committee. Prior to that he was co-founder and former CEO of the Network for Black Professionals and a member of the Commission for Black Staff in FE. Robin was a schoolteacher for ten years before a 30-year career in further education management, working in four colleges, for the Further Education Funding Council and for the British Council in South Africa before setting up a consultancy partnership, working mainly in South Africa.

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Dame Ann Limb

Dame Ann Limb DBE DL FRSA FCGI. A Mancunian by birth, Dame Ann describes herself these days as a 'philanthropist, mover & Quaker', trying to navigate her way through life by doing least harm to people and planet. Ann's teaching career in Further Education began at Wythenshawe College in 1976, whilst she was undertaking her PhD at the University of Liverpool. She enjoyed a successful career in the sector in Manchester and Derbyshire before becoming a Principal & CEO – of Milton Keynes College in 1986 and then Cambridge Regional College in 1996. In 2001, Ann joined the civil service where she was responsible for the UK government's flagship digital learning initiatives, learndirect, UK online and gov.uk. Ann is currently Pro Chancellor of the University of Surrey, Chair of the City & Guilds of London Institute, and Board member of LTE Group in which capacity she is Chair of Governors of The Manchester College. In March 2023, Ann was named inaugural Chair of the Lifelong Education Institute, established by ResPublica, to take forward a vision for whole-system reform. Ann co-chairs the FED Ambassadors. From 2015-2021, Ann was Chair of The Scouts, the UK's largest youth engagement charity and the first openly gay woman to hold this role. Ann is also Chair of the UK Innovation Corridor, the country's leading sci-tech region story from London to Cambridge, Chair of The Lloyds Bank Foundation, the charity arm in England & Wales of the Lloyds Banking Group, Deputy Chair of The Prince's Foundation, a heritage-led regeneration charity founded by HM The King, and Vice President of the FE sector's social justice charity, the Helena Kennedy Foundation which Ann herself set up in 1998. 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. In the 2011 Birthday Honours, Ann was awarded the OBE for services to education, in 2015 'upgraded' to CBE for public service, and in Jubilee Honours 2022 'elevated' to the rank of Dame Commander of the British Empire, DBE for services to young people, philanthropy and charity.

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Ben Mason

Ben Mason, Founder and CEO at globalbridge, an exciting, award-winning and pioneering Edtech platform built by teachers providing a digital platform that bridges the gap between talent and opportunity. It connects young people to the next step in their educational and professional journey, levelling the playing field of opportunity. Ben is also a Radio Presenter on TeacherHug Radio, Chairman of North East Director's of Sport Committee of the HMC (Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference) and also is contributing to the OECD 2030 Future of Education and Skills project, especially around how learner profiles can create a more inclusive and equitable way to evidence education outcomes for young people. Also, co-lead of Focus Group 2B (group of social partners, academics, private companies, IOs, NGOs, Foundations) researching the pros and cons of AI in teaching and learning.

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Andy Moor FCCT

Andy Moor is the CEO of Holy Family Catholic Multi Academy Trust, the lead organisation for Inspire Learning TSH across Liverpool and Wirral. Along with Emily Reid, Andy leads CChangeNW, one of eight Creativity Collaborative across the country. He is passionate about partnership, the learning ecosystem and creative approaches to leadership, curriculum and learning.

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Connect on Twitter @amoor4ed and @CChangeNW



Martin Allen Morales

Martin Allen Morales, CEO of the Institute of Imagination. The Institute of Imagination are the leading education charity in the field of creativity. Martin is an experienced Chief Executive and Board member with 20 years of experience growing education charities, social finance and social leadership organisations and previously working for large corporates such as Apple, Disney and EMI. He is also an award-winning entrepreneur and best-selling author.

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Rajay Naik

Rajay Naik is Chief Executive Officer of Skilled Education which designs, markets and delivers online courses and degrees for partners including the University of Cambridge, LSE and British Government. He is also Chairman of the Commission on Lifelong Learning, Partner of Networked People, board member of Nexford University and governor of the Ditchley Foundation. Rajay was formerly Global CCO of Study Group and prior to that Founder and CEO for four years at Keypath Education. For five years he was Director of The Open University where he was a key architect of the FutureLearn MOOC platform. Previously he was a member of the cross-party Higher Education Review chaired by Lord Browne, board member of Coventry City Football Club and Chairman of the Big Lottery Fund which invests over £1.5bn per year.

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Professor Tanya Ovenden-Hope

Professor Tanya Ovenden-Hope PFHEA FCCT FSET is Provost and Professor of Education at Plymouth Marjon University and Marjon University Cornwall, and Visiting Professor at Canterbury Christ Church University. With over three decades of cross-sector experience in Education (school, FE and HE), she chairs the Special Interest Group on Teacher Supply for the APPG for the Teaching Profession and is an elected board member of the Universities Council for the Education of Teachers (UCET), the International Council for the Education of Teachers (ICET), the British Educational Research Association (BERA) and an invited advisory board member for the Paul Hamlyn Foundation's Teacher Development Fund. Tanya's research explores rural, coastal and small schools, using the concept of 'Educationally Isolation' to explain how a schools' place can limit access to resources, such as a high quality workforce. Tanya has maintained a special focus in her research on teachers and issues relating to their recruitment and retention, being driven by a commitment to championing equity in education. The author of numerous papers, reports, articles and books, her latest two books are, Tanya Ovenden-Hope (Editor) (2022) *The Early Career Framework: origins, outcomes and opportunities*. Woodbridge, John Catt Educational and Tanya Ovenden-Hope and Rowena Passy (Eds) (2020) *Exploring Teacher Recruitment and Retention: contextual challenges from international perspectives*. Oxford, Routledge. Her latest report is Tanya Ovenden-Hope and Rowena Passy (2023) *Locality Matters: Understanding how to support the challenge of educationally isolated schools* www.marjon.ac.uk/educational-isolation.

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Holly Papworth

Holly Papworth is a Senior Policy Manager in the education policy practice at Public First. She joined from The Times, where she worked under Rachel Sylvester as a policy advisor for The Times Education Commission, undertaking a year-long review of the education and assessment systems in the UK, spanning early years through to lifelong learning. Previously, Holly was Chief of Staff to the Rt. Hon. Robert Halfon MP whilst he was Chair of the House of Commons Education Select Committee, and advised on the scrutiny of Department for Education policy decisions for ongoing Committee inquiries, headed up cross-party campaigns in Parliament covering a number of public policy and funding issues, and supported the MP with national media inquiries.

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Django Perks

Django Perks, SOS-UK. Django is a passionate and dedicated Youth Voice activist. As a young person and a person within the SEND community, Django uses his experiences to create a positive change within his community. When Django is not in meetings, he loves to read, research and write. Passionate about what he does, Django never lets an obstacle get in his way and perseveres even when times are hard. Django is a member of Sheffield Youth Cabinet, SYCA Member, YEP Member for the Centre for Youth Impact, Youth Voice Expert and owner of youthfulinsights.co.uk

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Heather Phillips

Heather Phillips FCCT. Heather has been a primary school headteacher in Birmingham for nearly 20 years. The school is a learning oasis for 630 pupils from many and varied ethnic backgrounds. It has been described as a 'harmonious learning environment' and has passion for improvement at the heart of its leadership. Heather has used coaching as part of her role for many years and in 2014, qualified as a Personal Performance Coach. She has used coaching to empower school leaders in a number of schools in different parts of the country and she continues to support a number of school leadership teams through her company Luminosa Coaching. She describes her work as coaching with joy, with passion and with absolute commitment to school leaders and their improved performance.

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Bridget Phillipson MP

Bridget Phillipson MP is the Labour MP for **Houghton and Sunderland South**, and has been an MP continuously since 6 May 2010. She currently undertakes the role of Shadow Secretary of State for Education

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James Pope

James Pope, formerly a Headteacher and executive Headteacher, is currently Director of InspirEDucate and Founder of the HeadsUp4HTs network, Associate Director of Whole Education, Founding Director of CORE Coaching Group International and Advisory Board member of CollectivED at Leeds Beckett University. James has worked in education for 26 years. With a passion for leadership and education and the transformative power that this can have on the lives of our young people James now works across the English education system, collaborating with, trusts, schools, teachers and leaders and with international schools and organisations.

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Dr Sana Rizvi

Dr Sana Rizvi is a Senior Lecturer in Education and Early Childhood Studies at Liverpool John Moores University. Her research centres on the educational experiences of minoritised communities at various intersections, exclusionary processes that affect minoritised communities, and the experiences of racialised staff and students within a UK HE context. She is passionate about teaching on the subjects of racial inequalities in education, critical perspectives on disability studies and inclusive education, and on qualitative methodologies. She has presented at several different international and national conferences and has many publications including a latest research monograph titled, *Undoing Whiteness in Disability Studies: The Special Education System and British South Asian Mothers*.

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Liz Robinson

Liz Robinson is a school and system leader, working to 'change the story' about how education is delivered in England. As head teacher of Surrey Square in Southwark for 13 years, Liz used values as a key driver to redefine the purpose of the school and radically reshape the teaching approaches. The school is judged Outstanding by Ofsted and is widely celebrated for its work, serving a highly challenged community. As a National Leader of Education, Liz worked with many schools to develop practice and raise standards. Since September 2018, Liz has worked as co-founder and co-director, and is now CEO, of Big Education, an organisation running schools and programmes to inspire and provoke change in the sector. She created The Big Leadership Adventure, a flagship programme supporting changemaker leaders in the sector. Liz has a particular interest in developing values-led leadership, and has worked extensively as a speaker, trainer and coach. She is passionate about asking bigger questions about what school can or should be about and finding new ways of working. As mum to two young girls, Liz works flexibly to manage her roles.

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Steve Rotheram

Steve Rotheram. Steven was raised in Kirkby in a family of eight children, Steve left school at 16 to pursue a career as a bricklayer, starting out as an apprentice. In later years he went on to work for the Learning and Skills Council. Steve began his political career when he was elected to serve as a councillor in 2002, representing Fazakerley ward on Liverpool City Council and held the ceremonial title of Lord Mayor of Liverpool through the city's European Capital of Culture year in 2008. In 2010, Steve was elected as the Member of Parliament for the Liverpool Walton constituency. While in Westminster, he led campaigns for justice for the Hillsborough families; in support of blacklisted workers; for compensation for those suffering from mesothelioma and asbestosis; and to change the law on the use of old tyres on buses and coaches. In 2017, Steve was elected as the first ever Liverpool City Region Mayor, representing 1.6m people across the boroughs of Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St Helens and the Wirral. In his first term, he helped deliver 9,000 new jobs and 5,500 apprenticeships, set out plans for an integrated London-style transport system and set a target for the region to become net zero carbon by 2040. On 6 May 2021, Steve was re-elected to serve a second term as Mayor with an increased majority of over 132,000 – winning almost 60% of the vote across the region. On day one of his new term in office, he delivered a £150m COVID recovery fund to create jobs and support businesses as the region emerges from the pandemic and has since secured almost three-quarters of a billion pounds from central government for transport in the region.

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Dr Pooja Saini

Dr Pooja Saini. Pooja is a Chartered Psychologist and Reader in Suicide and Self-Harm Prevention at Liverpool John Moores University. Pooja is well published in the field of suicide and is currently the Lead Researcher for the first therapeutic community-based centres for men in suicidal crisis. Pooja is the Lead for the LJMU Suicide and Self-Harm Research Group and Co-Lead for the Research Centre for Brain and Behaviour. Her work within suicide includes work with schools, universities, public engagement, knowledge exchange, implementation science, as well as expertise in both quantitative and qualitative research methods.

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Dr Matt Silver

Dr Matt Silver is Founder of The Glass House Leadership Lab. Matt sees all humans as lifelong self-determined learners that require the capacity to dynamically connect others and integrating them to thrive in constant flux. The Glass House Leadership Lab design coaching, team development and learning programmes to encourage agents of social change. Matt's doctoral thesis was on the impact of positive psychology and self-determination theory on Special and Inclusive Education (learners and leaders) from UCL The Institute of Education. Matt is a senior practitioner with complete coaching and team development, focusing on how the transformation of leaders and their teams in order to better face our wicked problems in business and education using cutting edge tools and research based practice. Matt currently lectures internationally on developing learning and leadership and am a visiting lecturer. Previously a CEO and headteacher of an innovative and outstanding education settings and experienced researcher with a demonstrated history of working in SEND, higher education and 21st Century conscious leadership. Skilled in system design, curriculum innovation, wellbeing design and embedding transformational change for a better future. All students must have a role of social value and the capacity to maintain it..

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Parminder Singh Garcha

Parminder Singh Garcha works as Senior Responsible Officer for Adult Education at Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority. Parminder is a passionate advocate for a devolved, place-based education and skills system, where inclusion is at the heart of policy and practice. Parminder is a leader in 14-19 education, having worked for Birmingham City Council as Head of the Careers Service and Head of 14-19 Participation and Skills, leading on 16-18 funding and commissioning, NEETS, transitions, mergers, and school sixth form reform. He is also a Governor at Fircroft College and previously at Joseph Chamberlain College. He serves as trustee of Victoria Specialist College and Sikh Nari Manch UK - a 'grass-roots' community education charity that he chairs.

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Ruth Slater

Ruth Slater is Head of Centre of Educational Leadership and part of the senior management team in the School of Education. She is an experienced executive educator, coach and leader having held senior leadership positions in both education and medical education. Ruth recently moved from the Business School to the School of Education after working within the Education Directorate at The Royal College of Physicians. She holds a Master's in Advanced Educational Practice, a qualified MBTI Practitioner, a Certified Management and Business Educator and an affiliate member of the European Mentoring and Coaching Council. Ruth has designed and led national mentor training programmes for private and public sector clients across the UK. Her approach to post graduate education and leadership learning focuses on how to best apply current theories into daily practice that enable positive working environments for the wider workforce and to ultimately improve outcomes. Her current research interests and doctoral study draw upon the importance of peer coaching to support under-represented groups within the public sector as well as studying the components of ethical leadership and developing psychological safety across the workforce to ensure safer working practices and positive outcomes for all groups. She is currently part of a research team focusing on the impact of supported learning in executive education. Ruth is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.

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Michael Stevenson

Michael Stevenson is Senior Consultant OECD High Performing Systems for Tomorrow. HPST brings together British Columbia (Canada), Estonia, Finland, Germany, Singapore, Australia and the United Kingdom to develop new education purposes, policies and practices in support of human flourishing. He is also orchestrating a Talent and Innovation Ecosystem in Doncaster, where he was brought up. The work has potential to support levelling up across the north of England. Michael founded and co-chairs the Global Education Leaders Partnership. He has led education at Cisco Systems and the BBC.

Patrick Wall

Patrick Wall is the founder of **edpol.net**, a research project focusing on international comparative review and long term planning in education. Patrick set up the first Oxford University access program, Target Schools, in 1982 and began school governorship in 1988. For thirteen years he has been chair of governors at Ark Academy in Wembley. He has spent thirty five years in business, working in Europe, USA and China. He is founder and ex-CEO of a global tech company and now CEO of a tech business building ethical and sustainable supply chains.

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Carl Ward

Carl Ward is Chair of the Foundation for Education Development (FED). He is also Chief Executive of the City Learning Trust; a 3 to 19 Academy Trust in Staffordshire. He has regional, national and international experience in education strategy, leadership development and school to school improvement. In a career spanning 26 years in teaching, 18 of them in senior leadership, Carl has worked in a range of schools and organisations across a number of settings. Further to this, Carl was ASCL President in 2017-2018 and between 2009 and 2011, was part of the Prime Minister's Talent & Enterprise Taskforce. He has also advised the Number 10 policy unit on several aspects of education. As Chair of the Careers and Enterprise Company's Education Advisory Board since its inception he has helped guide national careers strategy. He has previously been Chair for the Schools Cooperative Society and the Chartered College of Teaching's trustee selection committee. He is a serving council member of the International Confederation of Principals and a member of the Global Education Leaders Partnership. In addition, Carl has been a member of the Education Funding Agency advisory board; DfE School and Academy Funding Group; Confederation of School Trust Board and the European School Headteachers Association. In 2020 Carl was recognised for his impact in education and named as a Fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching, and as a Fellow of the Leadership Council at the Center for Universal Education, Brookings Institution, Washington DC.

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Nikeisha Webb-Hardy

Nikeisha Webb- Hardy, Co-Headteacher at Gesher School. I am from the beautiful Caribbean Island of Jamaica, where I first discovered my passion for teaching. I completed my teacher training with a focus in Mathematics and English and later qualified post-grad in the areas of Language and Literacy, SEND and Inclusion, Leadership and Management, and Assessment. I am extremely passionate about maximising opportunities for all learners which has fuelled my drive for working with students with SEND. With over 18 years' experience as an educator, my journey started out as a teacher of English and Literacy Specialist working with students with dyslexia and other Literacy needs. I have worked in several secondary schools leading and managing SEND and Inclusion provision, EAL and psychometric assessments. I am excited to share this journey as Co-Headteacher with Tammy and our entire Gesher community, as we embark on what is destined to be a remarkable journey of growth and discovery.

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Sir Michael Wilshaw

Sir Michael Wilshaw. Known for an unwavering commitment to improving standards as a teacher, headteacher, Director of Education and as Ofsted's Chief Inspector, Sir Michael has helped to improve the lives of many generations of young people, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds. He is presently Professor of Education at St Mary's University and Advisor to a number of school groups in the UK and abroad. As Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools, Children's Services and Skills, between 2012 and 2016, Sir Michael was responsible for all of Ofsted's inspection and regulatory work in England, using the full range of inspection findings to report on the quality of education and care both locally and nationally. He was responsible to Parliament for the organisation, staffing and management of one of the largest inspectorates in the developed world. By introducing more demanding inspection frameworks, Sir Michael was pleased at the end of his tenure, to report that nearly two million more children and young people were being educated in good and outstanding schools than when he took up his position in 2012. Previous to his appointment as HMCI, Sir Michael had been a very successful head teacher of a number of schools in Inner London. He became particularly well known for Mossbourne Academy in Hackney, East London, where he transformed one of the worst schools in Britain into one of the best, sending large numbers of children to top universities including Oxford and Cambridge. Between 2007 and 2012, whilst still principal of Mossbourne Academy, Sir Michael was appointed as the part-time Director of Education at ARK Schools, one of the largest and most successful Multi-Academy Trusts in England. In this role, Sir Michael was responsible for standards in all of the constituent academies within the Trust. Sir Michael has held a number of senior advisory positions to the UK Government and also to education ministries abroad including those of Brazil, Nepal, New Zealand and Australia. He has been a Trustee of the Prince of Wales' Teaching Institute and a member of the National Advisory Group for the Children's Plan and for London Challenge. Sir Michael is an Honorary Doctor at the Universities of Greenwich and East London, a fellow of Birkbeck College, London University and a Freeman of the City of London. He has recently been appointed as Professor of Education at St Mary's University in London. In 2000, he was knighted by the Queen for Services to Education.



Munira Wilson MP

Munira Wilson MP is the Member of Parliament for Twickenham and the Liberal Democrats' education spokesperson. After a decade working for health and children's charities, the NHS and global science companies, she was first elected to Parliament in 2019.

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Meena Wood

Meena Wood is an international speaker, trainer, author and leadership coach. In the UK, as a school adviser, Meena works with academies and MATs, including Alternative Provision providers, conducting peer reviews and reviews of curriculum and assessment; the quality of education, instructional coaching, inspection and governance. In addition, she supports British and International Schools in the Middle East (Dubai) and India. She is currently a registered KHDA inspector in Dubai. Meena possesses an MBA in Educational Leadership from University College London. She is an Honorary Fellow of Education Leadership Academy at the University of Birmingham, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and a Member of Chartered College. Meena is author of the popular 'Secondary Curriculum Transformed; Enabling All to Achieve' (Wood and Haddon, Routledge 2021). Since its publication, this book has led to a series of training webinars in UK, Northern Ireland, Dubai and India and features on the core reading list for the MEd in Educational Leadership (University of Birmingham). Alongside publishing articles for Schools Week, Teach Secondary (UK) Edge Foundation, Chartered College, Royal Society of Arts, she is a keynote speaker at Educational Conferences in the UK, Dubai and India, including the British Schools Middle East (BSME), Eduexcellence (India) and the Foundation of Education Development. Meena is a former HMI Ofsted, Local Authority Adviser, Principal of an Adult College and Principal of a Secondary Academy. She is currently on the Advisory Board of Da Vinci Life Skills Cambridge. She was formerly Chair of ClimateED; an educational charity working with schools to raise environmental awareness. Her voluntary work includes training for teachers in slum schools in India.

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Curtis Worrell

Curtis Worrell – Founder, Class 13. A youth work practitioner with over 15 years experience working in schools, housing, youth clubs and secure settings, Curtis is an expert in supporting critically reflective practice at the individual, organisational, and community level. Academically he holds a BA in Informal Education and an MSC in Education, Power and Social Change. His work features in a collection of essays looking at global perspectives of youth work and compares his two passions of Hip Hop and youth work by examining their roots in social change. Believing deficit ideology to be the biggest barrier facing young people accessing education today, Curtis founded Class 13 three years ago to support professionals to recognise, understand and act on our contribution to systemic inequity. Class 13 offers a comprehensive programme of training for educators that uses a systemic focus to build more equitable practices that benefit all young people.

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Professor Joe Yates

Professor Joe Yates is a Professor of Criminology and Social Policy and Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Place and Partnership and Pro-Vice-Chancellor Faculty of Arts, Professional and Social Studies at Liverpool John Moores University. Prior to taking up the post of Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor Yates held positions as Director of the School of Humanities and Social Science, Head of Criminology and Director of the Centre for the Study of Crime, Criminalisation and Social Exclusion (which he co-founded). He also led the development of the Liverpool Centre for Advanced Policing Studies. During his time at Liverpool John Moores University, Professor Yates has volunteered externally as a Community Governor, and Sports Governor and Deputy Chair at a Specialist Education Needs School, a local Primary School and a local Sixth form College. He also held the position of Trustee for the National Association for Youth Justice and the Foundation for Arts and Creative Technologies in Liverpool. He is currently the Director of an International Youth Justice Symposium at the Inter-University Centre in Croatia and he has previously sat on the Executive Board for the Council of Deans for Arts, Social Science and Humanities. Professor Yates is currently a Governor and Chair of the Higher Education Committee at Hugh Baird College in Bootle, Merseyside and the Chair of the Regional Governance Board for Cradle to Career, a place-based grassroots educational enhancement project in the Liverpool City Region. Professor Yates has researched and published in the field of youth justice with a particular focus on policy responses to marginalised children involved in crime and antisocial behaviour. He has conducted research for the Home Office and the Youth Justice Board of England and Wales as well as for a range of community groups, non-governmental organisations and charities. Prior to working in Higher Education, Professor Yates worked in the Criminal Justice Sector, working with young people as a youth worker, a social worker, a youth justice officer and a policy and performance manager. He is a trained probation officer and a qualified social worker.