

Partner Schools Network

SCHOOLS NOW! CONFERENCE
1–2 MARCH, ABU DHABI



International Conference for the British Council Partner Schools Network:

Schools Now! Empowering leaders, teachers and students (1–2 March 2016, Abu Dhabi)

Day 1:

Time	Action
08:30 - 09:15	Registration and coffee
09:15 - 10:00	<p>Opening and welcome: Marc Jessel, Country Director, British Council, UAE</p> <p>Chief guests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• HE Eng. Hamad Al Dhaheri, Executive Director of Private Schools and Quality Assurance, Abu Dhabi Education Council (ADEC), UAE• Dr. Sakena Yacoobi, CEO, Afghan Institute of Learning (AIL), Afghanistan
10:00 - 11:00	<p>Keynote: Joe Hallgarten, Director of Creative Learning and Development, Royal Society of Arts (RSA), UK</p> <p>Plenary 1: Schools Now! Empowering leaders, teachers and students. The challenges that schools face in meeting the expectations of students, parents, examining bodies, employers and society in general are growing in scale and complexity. Schools today are now, more than ever, expected to provide the environment and the culture where students can excel academically, have the skills to succeed in higher education and employment and who are also well rounded individuals making positive contributions to the world.</p> <p>This is a collective responsibility and one school leaders, educators and policy makers cannot afford to get wrong. How are schools today responding to the challenge and what has been achieved already and what remains to be done?</p> <p>Panel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aidan Jones OBE, CEO WorldSkills, UAE• Janet Morris, Director, International Network, Cambridge International Examinations, UK• Rana Omar Abdelbaqi, Academic Director, Thanmer International School, Saudi Arabia• Joe Hallgarten, Director of Creative Learning and Development, Royal Society of Arts (RSA), UK <p>Chair: Peter Upton CMG, Country Director, British Council, Pakistan</p>

Time	Action		
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee and networking		
11:30 - 12:45	<p>Parallel 1: The changing role of the school leader</p> <p><i>Nurturing teachers as leaders through delegation of their responsibilities</i></p> <p>Presenter: Shahnaz Pirani, The Academy Educational Network, Pakistan</p> <p><i>How School System Leaders Can Create the Conditions for System-wide Innovation</i></p> <p>Presenter: Joe Hallgarten, Director of Creative Learning and Development, RSA, UK</p> <p><i>21st Century School Leadership</i></p> <p>Presenter: Alberta Andoh, St Peter's International School, Takoradi, Ghana</p> <p>Chair: Richard Everitt, Director Education & Society, British Council, India</p>	<p>Parallel 2: Core skills - education and employability</p> <p><i>Taqaddam - equipping young people with enduring personal and professional strengths and skills that will enable them to lead successful and fulfilling lives</i></p> <p>Presenter/s: Sabrin Rahman, Head of Corporate Sustainability, HSBC Bank Middle East Limited & Melanie Relton, Regional Vocational Education Manager, British Council, MENA</p> <p><i>Education fit for the future – preparing students for a changing world</i></p> <p>Presenter: Janet Morris, Director, International Network, Cambridge International Examinations, UK</p> <p><i>Core Skills in Schools: unlocking a world of potential</i></p> <p>Presenter: Rebecca Picton, Regional Programme Manager Schools, British Council, South Asia</p> <p>Chair: Michelle Potts, Regional Director Education, British Council, South Asia</p>	<p>Parallel 3: Leaders, teachers and learners – inclusive approaches to quality assurance</p> <p><i>Effective counselling through finding the 'right fit' between teacher and student to achieve positive behaviour</i></p> <p>Presenter: Aasma Ahmad, Principal, Beaconhouse School System, Pakistan</p> <p><i>Developing teachers: quality teaching in the school</i></p> <p>Presenter: Tim Philips, Head, Teacher Development, English & Exams.</p> <p><i>Promoting STEAM/STEAM2 education for empowerment</i></p> <p>Presenter: Dr. Heba EL-Deghaidy, American University in Cairo, Egypt</p> <p>Chair: Philip Rylah, Regional Director, Examinations Services, MENA</p>
12:45 - 13:45	Lunch and networking		
13:45 - 15:00	<p>Keynote: Aidan Jones OBE, CEO WorldSkills</p> <p>Plenary 2: Mind the (skills) Gap – are Schools fit for purpose in the new world?</p>		

Time

Action

There is an increasing amount of discourse about the widening gap between the skills and knowledge students leave education with, and the skills and knowledge that employers value. The general argument runs that both the nature of work and the speed with which new ideas and understanding come into the work place have evolved in ways that render current schooling irrelevant and unhelpful. Whether or not this is true, is debatable but the fact that employers' associations from around the world are saying it ought to compel the education community to respond.

How does the sector ensure we equip them fully, with skills for a future world we do not yet know? Will our new curriculum embrace this? Will school funding allow us to do this? Will our teachers of the future be trained and be ready for this?

Video Presentation:

Andreas Schleicher, Director for Education and Skills, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Panel:

- Dr. Elizabeth Shepherd, Senior Research Manager, British Council, UK
- Professor Ammar Kaka, Head of Campus & Executive Dean, Heriot-Watt University Dubai, UAE
- Sabrin RAHMAN, Head of Corporate Sustainability, HSBC Bank Middle East Limited
- Ms. Sulaf Saleh Al-Zu'bi, CEO, INJAZ UAE

Chair:

Dominic Regester, Senior Adviser Schools, British Council, UK

15:00 - 16:00

Gallery walks 1:

Informal discussions hosted by you and your fellow participants on the topics you care about on the themes of the conference.

- 1) Kashfi Butt: The emerging role of school leaders as security administrators
- 2) Neelam Tariq: The role of audio visual aids in effective teaching of Mathematics and English at primary level
- 3) Naveed Razzaq: Leadership dynamics of contemporary schooling
- 4) Ms. Nadra Huma Quraishi, & Ms Shaheen Samir: Reducing the monitoring and evaluation gap between School Leaders and Teachers: a case study from Pakistan

Time	Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5) Mr. R P Singh: Making children self-reliant through pre-read 6) Mr. Shammaz Zia: Future Leadership 7) Syed Zakir Ali: The changing role of leader as an educationalist 8) Qaisara Mubasher Shakoor: The changing role of a school leader 9) Gbenga Adebambo: Building Leadership abilities in students through the Tutorial Assistant Model 10) Leandro Racco: The three Rs 11) Noora Abdulla Alshehhi: Building neuronal networks in students' brains: The new paradigm of teaching English 12) Mrs. Sudha Gupta: Leaders, teachers and learners: inclusive approaches to quality assurance 14) Dr. Mrs. Vandana Lulla: I am different - but NOT left out - they teach me MY way!
16:00 - 16:30	Coffee and networking
16:30 - 17:30	<p>Keynote: Fadi A Khalek , VP Strategic Partnerships and Efficacy, Pearson</p> <p>Plenary 3: Hope or Hype? – Rethinking technology and new models of delivery in schools</p> <p>The latest OECD survey on ICT in schools revealed consistent and widespread access to technologies both within schools and in homes. 93% of secondary schools make use of an online learning platform; while as many as 97% of secondary school children and 94% of primary school children now have access to the internet from their home. However, according to numerous studies, access does not necessarily translate into success in the classroom and improved learning outcomes and that; far from revolutionizing learning much of the technology used in classrooms actually reinforces traditional teaching methods, is misused or underutilized.</p> <p>Has the role of technology been over hyped, does it require new skill sets on the part of learners and educators and importantly who will foot the bill? Is it really a substitute for quality face-to-face teaching and learning or is a hybrid model emerging that is the way forward? What has worked, what hasn't and why?</p>



Time	Action
	<p>Panel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fadi A Khalek , VP Strategic Partnerships and Efficacy, Pearson• Chaudhry Faisal Mushtaq, CEO Roots Millennium Schools, Pakistan• Speaker (TBC) <p>Chair: Dominic Hudson, Regional Exams Marketing and Business Development Manager, British Council, Sub Saharan Africa (SSA)</p>
19:00	<p>Welcome dinner (Dress code: Smart casual)</p> <p>Host/s:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Steve Adams, Director Examinations Services, South Asia• Philip Rylah, Regional Director, Examinations Services, MENA



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Day 2:

Time	Action
09:00 - 09:30	<p>Welcome to Day 2 Philip Rylah, Regional Director, Examinations Services, MENA</p> <p>Chief Guests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ros Marshall, Trustee British Council & CEO Taaleem, UAE• Mr. Essa Al Mulla, Executive Director, Emirates Nationals Development Programme (ENDP), UAE
09:30 - 10:30	<p>Keynote: Chaudhry Faisal Mushtaq, CEO Roots Millennium Schools, Pakistan</p> <p>Plenary 4: Redefining School Leadership– Challenging the status quo</p> <p>There is now wide recognition that for a school to be successful, the traditional head teacher / teacher / student hierarchy needs to be revisited and challenged. Head teachers cannot be the only leaders, teachers must do more than impart knowledge and students need to be able to take responsibility for their learning and the environment and culture of their school.</p> <p>The concept of empowerment of leaders, teachers and students to develop and change their schools for the better is more than just simply to redefine traditional roles and structures however means in which to shape a dynamic and evolving understanding of schools now and in the future. Furthermore, what attitudes, attributes qualities and qualifications are required for tomorrow's leaders in education, and is enough being done to nurture tomorrow's talent pool?</p> <p>Panel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Sakena Yacoobi, CEO, Afghan Institute of Learning (AIL), Afghanistan• Chaudhry Faisal Mushtaq, CEO Roots Millennium Schools, Pakistan• Alberta Andoh, Head of School, St. Peter's International School, Ghana• Dr. Mrs. Vandana Lulla, Director, Podar International School, Mumbai, India <p>Chair: Murray Keeler, Director Examinations Services, British Council, Pakistan</p>
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee and networking

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11:00 - 12:15

**Parallel 4:
The changing role of the school leader**

Empowering and changing the leadership roles at schools

Presenter:
Saira Waseem, Head of School, TCS Shalimar, Pakistan

The changing role of the school leader - a story of success

Presenter:
Rana Omar Abdelbaqi, Academic Director, Thanmer International School, Saudi Arabia

The 21 responsibilities of the School Leader and Distributed Leadership

Presenter:
Rasha Samir, Headteacher, The International School Of Elite Education, Egypt

Chair:
Nishat Riaz, Director Education, British Council, Pakistan

**Parallel 5:
Core skills - education and employability**

Examining the 'global revolution' in English language policy development

Presenter: Dr Elizabeth Shepherd, Senior Researcher, British Council

Financial literacy and careers in accountancy

Presenter:
Junaid Maqbool, Account Manager – AAA & Corporates, ACCA Middle East, UAE

Developing 21st century skills through community Service Initiative in SAI International School – A Case Study

Presenter:
Mr. BK Sahoo, Chairman, Sai International School, India

Chair:
Melanie Relton, Regional Vocational Education Manager, British Council, MENA

**Parallel 6:
Leaders, teachers and learners – inclusive approaches to quality assurance**

School Leadership in Pakistan – a situational analysis

Presenter:
Nasir Nazir, Head of Schools Programme, British Council, Pakistan

Leaders, teachers and learners: inclusive approaches to quality assurance

Presenter:
Mrs. Sudha Gupta, Director, Mother's Pride and Presidium Group of Institutions, India

So you call yourself A Teacher?

Presenter:
Tolulope Sunday, Adepoju Dean of Students' Affairs, Educational Advancement Centre, Nigeria

Chair:
Murray Keeler, Director Examinations Services, British Council, Pakistan

12:15 - 13:15

Keynote: Dr. Vivien Berry, Senior Researcher, English Language Assessment, British Council, UK

**Plenary 5:
Measuring Effectiveness, Improving Outcomes – what do examinations tell us?**

The nature and impact of assessment depends on the uses to which the results of that assessment are put. Assessment is essential to allow learners to get the appropriate educational support and interventions and to evaluate the effectiveness of different

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	<p>educational pedagogies. Examinations are a key element of the assessment process.</p> <p>However, with the advent of new technology, dispersed learning, flipped classrooms etc. and increasing clamor to imbue 21st century skills, how do examinations measure all that is felt to be important in education and how do examinations affect the teaching that takes place? How do examinations measure a learner's mastery of knowledge as well as chart the ongoing growth and development in learning over a period of time?</p> <p>Panel Discussion followed by Q&A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Vivien Berry, Senior Researcher, English Language Assessment, British Council, UK • Victoria Valentine, Regional Development Manager, Gulf and Levant Markets, Pearson • Speaker (TBC) <p>Chair: Martin Lowder, Head of Client Relations, British Council, UK</p>
13:15 - 14:00	Lunch & networking
14:00 - 15:00	<p>Gallery walks 2: Informal discussions hosted by you and your fellow participants on the topics you care about on the themes of the conference.</p>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Kashfi Butt: The emerging role Of School Leaders as security administrators 2) Neelam Tariq: The role of audio visual aids in effective teaching of Mathematics and English at primary level 3) Naveed Razzaq: Leadership dynamics of contemporary schooling 4) Ms. Nadra Huma Quraishi, & Ms. Shaheen Samir: Reducing the monitoring and evaluation gap between school leaders and teachers: a case study from Pakistan 5) Mr. R P Singh: Making children self-reliant through pre-read 6) Mr. Shammas Zia : Future Leadership 7) Syed Zakir Ali: The changing role of leader as an Educationalist

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	<p>6) Qaisara Mubasher Shakoor: The changing role of a school leader</p> <p>9) Gbenga Adebambo: Building leadership abilities in students through the Tutorial Assistant Model</p> <p>10) Leandro Racco: The three Rs</p> <p>11) Noora Abdulla Alshehhi: Building neuronal networks in students' brains: The new paradigm of teaching English</p> <p>12) Mrs. Sudha Gupta: Leaders, teachers and learners: inclusive approaches to quality assurance</p> <p>14) Dr. Mrs Vandana Lulla: I am different - but NOT left out - they teach me MY way!</p>
<p>15:00 - 16:00</p>	<p>Plenary 6: Student Insight</p> <p>A student perspective on the key issues and opportunities on the themes of the conference and potential ideas and solutions to address them. Capturing the voices, opinions and aspirations of millions of young people. What are the key messages emerging for academic leaders, policy makers and employers and why they should sit up and listen!</p> <p>Student Insight Presentation</p> <p>Panel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ros Marshall, Trustee British Council & CEO Taaleem, UAE • Sapna Sukul, Director, Sparsh, India • Victoria Valentine, Regional Development Manager, Gulf and Levant Markets, Pearson • Mr. Essa Al Mulla, Executive Director, Emirates Nationals Development Programme (ENDP), UAE • Steve Adams, Director Examinations Services, South Asia <p>Chair: Ismail Badat, Regional Manager, Higher and Further Education, British Council, South Asia</p> <p>Panel Discussion followed by Q&A</p>
<p>16:00 - 16:10</p>	<p>Thanks and close</p>



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