

# Schools Now!

**Online Conference  
6th -7th March 2019**

**Pathways to Resilience:**  
Strategic leadership in a changing  
environment





## Schools Now! Programme 2019

We would like to wish you a warm welcome to the Schools Now! Online Conference from the British Council's Partner Schools Global Network (PSGN).

The Partner Schools Global Network is the British Council's global community of schools delivering international curriculum and assessment provided by the UK awarding bodies. The network supports school leaders, teachers, students and parents in over 1,700 partner schools in 32 countries around the world. As well as support in delivering international school exams including IGCSEs and A-levels, the network provides partner schools with access to services such as training, resources, competitions and networking opportunities.

Central to the support provided by the PSGN is training. We provide support for schools through teacher training and now new leadership training. The PSGN Online Support for Schools (OSS) platform supports teachers and leaders through access to skills training, discussion forums, monthly newsletters and live webinars. There are now over 22,000 leaders and teachers registered on the OSS which demonstrates the commitment of partner schools to continued professional development.

The PSGN is committed to supporting partner schools with child protection. We do this through online child protection awareness training including cyber-safety and access to resources such as the new e-safety guides for schools, parents and students. We also promote diversity and inclusion through our online SEN awareness modules and resources on the OSS.

### About the School Now! Online Conference

We are excited to launch our first fully online version of the School Now! Conference for leaders and educational managers from partner schools. This is the fourth in the series of School Now! Conferences and builds on the successes of previous conferences in Abu Dhabi, Sri Lanka and Jordan. This Schools Now! Online Conference will allow us to reach an even greater number of leaders and managers from partner schools and create even more opportunities for delegates to actively participate in presentations, workshops and discussions that take place throughout this 2-day conference.

The theme of this Schools Now! Conference is **Pathways to Resilience: Strategic leadership in a changing environment**. The idea of 'building up resilience' is becoming increasingly used in the world of education and includes skills for the future such as critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, leadership and digital literacy. It can also extend to personal development through learning new skills throughout life, overcoming setbacks and looking after personal health and well-being. This conference will explore these areas in depth and support leaders and managers in building up resilience with young people in their schools.

A facilitator will be present throughout the online conference to introduce sessions, link them together, draw out themes and encourage the participation of delegates. Interaction and participation in the conference will also be encouraged through social media such as blogging and live tweeting, Facebook live sessions, a video wall and live events across PSGN countries. Throughout the 2-day conference, participants will be guided to reflect and consider future actions by completing a framework action plan to implement in their schools.

As usual, the awarding bodies will play a prominent role in the conference through keynote presentations and delegates will have the opportunity to speak to representatives in interactive areas throughout the conference.

In this free to register conference you can enrol in as many sessions as you like and if you attend at least five sessions then you will get a certificate of participation.

# Schools Now! Online Conference

Day 1 – Wednesday 6th March 2019

UK Time	Duration	Session title and Presenter	Description Notes
08:00	15 mins	<b>Conference opening</b>  <b>Martin Lowder</b> Head of Client Services, English and Exams, British Council, UK	<b>Pathways to Resilience:</b> Strategic leadership in a changing environment
08:15	45 mins	<b>Keynote 1</b> Inside the learning revolution: a round-the-world tour to show how all kids can thrive in the age of uncertainty  <b>Alex Beard</b> Senior Director, Teach For All. Alex is also the author of Natural Born Learners	In our age of uncertainty, it's vital that all children have the ingenuity, empathy and resilience needed to thrive in a future of increased globalization, automation and climate change. This talk will take us on a global tour, from Silicon Valley to Seoul, Helsinki to Hounslow, to show how we can ensure that all kids thrive by redesigning our schools using cutting edge technology, new insights into the human mind, and revolutionary teaching practices.
09:00	20 mins	Closed groups discussion on Keynote 1 presentation	Q&A
09:20	20 mins	<b>Workshop 1</b>  The role of the school leader in creating the right educational environment that prepares students both emotionally and socially to meet the challenges of the 21st Century.  <b>Alun Williams</b> School Principal, Forsan British School, Alexandria, Egypt.	How school leaders can create the right environment for school leavers to be ready for the challenges ahead of them. We at Forsan British School try to provide a seamless development programme that equips students with the necessary skills, emotional and psychological stability and competitive edge they will need to survive in the world of higher education and 21st century employment.
09:40	45 mins	<b>Keynote 2</b>  Developing and sustaining resilience in teachers  <b>Dr Sue Brindley</b> Senior Lecturer at Cambridge University  <b>Cambridge Assessment International Education</b>	If we want to encourage resilient students, we also need resilient teachers. In this keynote, Dr Sue Brindley will draw on her extensive work with teachers to show how teacher research can energise and inspire teachers, giving them a fresh sense of purpose as professionals.
10:25	20 mins	Closed groups discussion on Keynote 2 presentation	Q&A
10:45	45 mins	<b>Keynote 3</b>  Fostering Grit in the Classroom  <b>Professor Sule Alan</b> Professor of Economics at the University of Essex	Grit is a socioemotional skill, proven to be pivotal for success in all life domains. It can be measured and fostered. It all starts with optimistic beliefs regarding the role of effort in success. We provide compelling evidence from field experiments that i) those believing that effort is a more important ingredient for achievement than innate intelligence are more likely to persevere and succeed, and ii) such beliefs can be cultivated in the classroom environment.
11:30	20 mins	Closed groups discussion on Keynote 3 presentation	Q&A

UK Time	Duration	Session title and Presenter	Description Notes
11:50 – 13:00	1h 10min	<b>Online Conference Break</b>	
13:00	5 mins	Introduction and to welcome the Americas	
13:05	45 mins	<b>Keynote 4</b>  Protecting Children in the Digital World: Effective School Online Safety Practice  <b>David Wright</b> Director of the UK Safer Internet Centre	Little is more important in life than protecting our children from harm. Today, their world exists as much online as it does physically. Schools are often on the frontline of protecting children and it is imperative that they have the capability and capacity to recognize, respond and resolve issues as well as to equip children to benefit from technology in a safe and responsible manner. This presentation examines what effective online safety practice looks like.
13:50	20 mins	Closed groups discussion on Keynote 4 presentation	Q&A
14:10	20 mins	<b>Workshop 2</b>  Understanding Resilience: the role of a school in developing a culture that supports resilience and mental well-being in students.  <b>Abeer Fatima Rizvi</b> Director School Development, GSIS, Pakistan	Defining 'resilience' in the context of a school. This presentation will focus on the role of a school in developing a culture that nurtures resilience and mental well-being, along with the relationship between them and their importance in creating well rounded and successful individuals, the challenges faced by teachers and leaders and how these can be overcome.
14:30	45 mins	<b>Panel Discussion</b>  Building resilience in UK schools  Joan Deslandes, Headteacher Rob Ford, Headteacher Alison Willmott, Facilitator	How can schools give students the skills to build resilience and overcome challenges?  School leaders and students from UK schools.
15:15	15 mins	<b>Presenting Your World - Regional Winners</b>  <b>Douglas Wood</b> Partner Schools Global Network Manager, British Council.	Announcing the regional winners of Your World global competition.
15:30 – 16:00	30 mins	<b>Reflections on day one</b>  Alison Willmott Facilitator	

## Day 2 - Thursday 7th March 2019

UK Time	Duration	Session title and Presenter	Description Notes
08:00	15 mins	Opening Remarks  Alison Willmott  Facilitator	
08:15	45 mins	<b>Keynote 5</b>  Secondary education readiness for further study or employment.  <b>Lisa Collett</b> Educational Consultant	This session will explore the skills required of secondary graduates for employment or further study. This issue is well documented in the US and UK where students often meet the eligibility requirements, but need additional courses, or training to progress or access employment. We will present current best practice in addressing this issue with case studies demonstrating innovations in school leadership; where soft skills and “Real world Learning” have been integrated within the curriculum.
09:00	20 mins	Closed groups discussion on Keynote 5 presentation	Q&A
09:20	20 mins	<b>Workshop 3</b>  Optimising resilience using a personalised well-being model among adolescents in Ghana.  <b>Dr Funke Baffour-Awuah</b> Head of Counselling and Support Al-Rayan International School, Ghana	Mental health well-being models are novel ways of addressing emerging challenges that are being faced by students in secondary school settings. Our revolutionary personalised well-being model aims to augment student's resilience skills, emotional intelligence and personal achievements that are necessary in the 21st century to cope with demands and challenges faced by students in the digital sphere, the modern school and life after study.
09:40	45 mins	<b>Keynote 6</b>  Using mindfulness to build resilience and calm in the classroom  <b>Amy Malloy</b> Founder - No More Shoulds Mindfulness training for healthier, kinder minds  <b>Pearson International</b>	Faced with a mental health crisis in education, we will look at the reality behind the epidemic, introducing the benefits of mindfulness practice as a powerful tool to build resilience and calm in the classroom. Demystifying neuroscience, mindfulness theory and meditation practice, we will cover helping students cope with stress around exams, fulfilling expectations or to simply become more resilient in the face of adversity, and end with an easy-to-administer mindfulness plan for the classroom.
10:25	20 mins	Closed groups discussion on Keynote 6 presentation	

UK Time	Duration	Session title and Presenter	Description Notes
10:45	45 mins	<b>Keynote 7</b>  Data: the numbers behind resilience  <b>Jamie Kirkaldy</b> Director of Teaching and Learning, <b>Oxford International AQA Examinations</b>	You want to build resilience but where do you start? How do you help students understand their strengths and weaknesses in a way that empowers rather than embarrasses? Used correctly, data is a powerful educational force: enabling students to truly know themselves in an academic context, as well as enabling schools to provide the right support for the students that need it - and to check it's working.
11:30	20 mins	Closed groups discussion on Keynote 7 presentation	Q&A
11:50 – 13:00	1h 10min	<b>Online Conference Break</b>	
13:00	45 mins	<b>Keynote 8</b>  Promoting resilience at a whole school level through a child-centred holistic approach to well-being  <b>Gail Nowek</b> Education Office, Inclusion Education Scotland	This keynote will draw on the Scottish approach to promoting resilience through the Getting it right for every child framework (GIRFEC) which supports the well-being of children and young people. It will include a focus on how a child-centred curriculum and whole school nurturing approach can be used effectively to promote resilience and improve well-being. The role of an evidence base to inform practice at all levels of a school community will also be explored.
13:45	20 mins	Closed groups discussion on Keynote 8 presentation	Q&A
14:05	45 mins	<b>Panel Discussion</b>  Developing resilience and moving forward -Taqaddam  <b>Riham Boutros</b> Regional Project Manager, British Council, Egypt	Taqaddam, means 'Move Forward' in Arabic. It is an innovative youth-development programme that is delivered across ten countries in the Middle East and North Africa. The session will provide an opportunity to listen to the experience of students, teachers and school leaders who have participated in the programme and how it helped embed a culture of skills learning within the school. It also includes an invitation for partner schools to experience the Taqaddam digital platform.
14:50	45 mins	<b>Keynote 9</b>  Building resilience through digital making  <b>James Aslett</b> International Programme Manager, Raspberry Pi Foundation	Raspberry Pi Foundation will explore how students can build their resilience through learning digital making (how to make things with computers), and how that experience can better prepare them for the future. Code Club promotes problem solving and creative thinking through informal digital making for young people. This presentation will provide advice and support to implement this type of learning in schools through extra-curricular coding clubs with reference to examples and case studies.
15:35	15 mins	<b>Douglas Wood</b> Partner Schools Global Network Manager, British Council.	Announcing the global winners of Your World competition.
15:50 – 16:15	25 mins	Reflections on day two	Final remarks and Q&A Schools Now! 2020 Closing remarks

## Keynote Speakers



### **MEET ALEX BEARD**

Alex Beard is the author of *Natural Born Learners* and a Senior Director at Teach For All, a network of organizations working in 50 countries to ensure that all children can fulfill their potential.

Enrol in Alex Beard's session on  
**Wednesday 6th March 2019 at 08:15 AM GMT**



### **MEET DR SUE BRINDLEY**

Sue Brindley is a Senior Lecturer at Cambridge University. She researches into teacher development and co-ordinates a school research network involving over 200 schools.

Enrol in Dr Sue Brindley's session on  
**Wednesday 6th March 2019 at 09:40 AM GMT**



### **MEET PROFESSOR SULE ALAN**

Sule Alan is a full time Professor of Economics at the University of Essex. Her fields of specialization include behavioral economics, education and field experiments.

Enrol in Professor Sule Alan's session on  
**Wednesday 6th March 2019 at 10:45 AM GMT**



### **MEET DAVID WRIGHT**

David is the Director UK Safer Internet Centre at SWGfL, having worked extensively in online safety for many years with children, schools, industry and governments.

Enrol in David Wright's session on  
**Wednesday 6th March 2019 at 13:05 PM GMT**

## Keynote Speakers



### **MEET LISA COLLETT**

Lisa Collett, an independent consultant has considerable expertise in the benchmarking of International Secondary Education to inform access to employment or further study in the UK and overseas.

Enrol in Lisa Collett's session on  
**Thursday 7th March 2019 at 08:15 AM GMT**



### **MEET AMY MALLOY**

Amy Malloy enhances 15 years' experience of teaching, educational publishing and research, with mindfulness teaching to help educators and students find inner calm through mindfulness.

Enrol in Amy Malloy's session on  
**Thursday 7th March 2019 at 09:40 AM GMT**



### **MEET JAMIE KIRKALDY**

Jamie Kirkaldy is Head of Teaching and Learning Support for Oxford International AQA Examinations and a former Head of English and school leader in Oxford, UK.

Enrol in Jamie Kirkaldy's session on  
**Thursday 7th March 2019 at 10:45 AM GMT**



### **MEET GAIL NOWEK**

Gail is an Education officer with the Inclusion and Equalities Team in Education Scotland and specialises in nurturing approaches, children's rights, participation, resilience and wellbeing.

Enrol in Gail Nowek's session on  
**Thursday 7th March 2019 at 13:00 PM GMT**



## Keynote Speakers



### MEET **JAMES ASLETT**

James Aslett is the international programme manager for Raspberry Pi Foundation. James supports schools, teachers and governments globally to implement Code Club for young people.

Enrol in James Aslett's session on  
**Thursday 7th March 2019 at 14:50 PM GMT**

## Conference Facilitator



### MEET **ALISON WILLMOTT**

Alison Willmott is an education consultant, lecturer and writer. She teaches on the Postgraduate and Undergraduate courses at St. Mary's University in London and develops resources for teachers and pupils to bring learning to life. She has worked with schools in the UK and overseas on curriculum development project, is a facilitator for the National Foundation for Educational Research's innovative Enquiring Schools Programme and had written many resources for the British Council Schools Online website.

## Workshop Presenters



### **MEET ALUN WILLIAMS**

Alun Williams is Principal of Forsan British School in Alexandria. He has worked in education for over 40 years.

Enrol in Alun William's session on  
**Wednesday 6th March 2019 at 09:20 AM GMT**



### **MEET ABEER FATIMA RIZVI**

Abeer Fatima Rizvi is an educationist, career counselor, school leader from Pakistan, working at GSIS, as Director School Development. Contact: [abeerizvi@live.com](mailto:abeerizvi@live.com).

Enrol in Abeer Fatima Rizvi's session on  
**Wednesday 6th March 2019 at 14:10 AM GMT**



### **MEET DR FUNKE BAFFOUR-AWUAH**

Dr Funke is a clinical psychologist. She is the Head of Counselling and Support at Al-Rayan International School, Ghana. Her interests centre on mental health among adolescents.

Enrol in Dr Funke Baffour-Awuah's session on  
**Thursday 7th March 2019 at 09:20 AM GMT**

