

British Council Partner Schools



Schools Now! 2022

Leading Recovery:
curriculum, community
and wellbeing

Online Conference
9-10 March 2022



Schools Now! Online Conference 2022



Leading Recovery: curriculum, community and wellbeing

In previous years the British Council's Schools Now! Conference has covered themes such as resilience, innovation, and internationalising the school's vision and curriculum. Building on those themes and responding to demands of a global lockdown, we are pleased to bring you the seventh annual Schools Now! Conference.

Conference Theme:

Leading Recovery: curriculum, community and wellbeing.

The Pandemic has affected education system along with the mental health and wellbeing of our staff and student. The approach of this conference will recognise the confidence with which school leaders have supported their learning communities and embraced challenges during the pandemic.

This aim of this event is to explore how school leaders can build on these successes and have open discussions about the next steps needed for recovery.

The two-day event will cover recovery through the following sub-themes:

Recovery of social, emotional and learning skills:

The focus of this sub-theme is curriculum and pedagogy. We will explore how they interact to improve learning outcomes and support the mental health and wellbeing of our learners.

Recovery for inclusion and resilience:

This sub-theme discusses how school leaders can plan long-term solution to create inclusive learning environments that can support equity for gender, different abilities, and identities

Recovery into a new normal:

The focus of this sub-theme is sustainability and learning. Sharing effective practices, we will hear from school leaders about what has worked, and also planning for the immediate future.

Throughout the conference you can:

- Share and discuss research and innovative practice.
- Collaborate, exchange ideas and experiences.
- Connect and engage with Partner School leaders from around the world.

Schools Now! Online Conference 2022



Leading Recovery: curriculum, community and wellbeing

YOUR VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE

Delegates will have the opportunity to interact virtually with international education experts and other Partner School leaders from around the world. The virtual platform has multiple interactive areas to connect participants, with engaging content that includes:

- Keynote presentations
- Panel discussions and forums
- Interactive sessions
- Networking opportunities
- Exhibitors
- Poster booths

The conference is streamed via Whova, the official event app. The Whova event app is free for all participants. You will need to download the app on your phone, tablet or computer. The downloaded app will take you directly to the conference event page.

Using the app you can:

- Attend the sessions, keynote presentations and discussions.
- Record your experiences, take notes, ask questions and interact with other leaders.
- Connect with others, create discussion topics and share photos.
- Visit the exhibitors section to find out more about IELTS, Aptis, Online Support for Schools (OSS), Study UK and Partner Schools Connect.

Conference Details

There is a mix of keynote presentations, interactive workshops, and group activities. To make the most of your online experience, you need a good internet connection. The working language of the conference is English and given the range of nationalities represented, translation is not available. Delegates need to be comfortable with working in English.

Your facilitator, Alison Willmott, will be present throughout to introduce sessions, draw out themes and encourage the participation of delegates.

Day 1- Wednesday 9 March 2022

| UK Time | Activity Duration | Session Title/ Presenter | Session Description |
|---------|-------------------|---|---|
| 08:00 | 15 mins | Conference opening <i>Yvette Hutchinson</i> <i>Quality Assurance and Teacher Training Adviser,</i> <i>British Council</i> <i>Scott McDonald</i> <i>Chief Executive, British Council</i> <i>Alison Willmott</i> <i>Facilitator</i> | |
| 08:15 | 35 mins | Keynote 1 Sustainable Recovery in a Shifting Landscape <i>Evelyn Forde MBE</i> <i>Headteacher, Copthall School, UK</i> | Evelyn discusses the challenges schools are facing with regards to the mental health and wellbeing of young people as they emerge from the pandemic only to find the return to school becoming a shifting landscape. She will share the good practices that she has been able to draw upon to become a resilient school, and what this means for both staff and students. Followed by Q&A |
| 08:50 | 5 mins | Partner School Video 1 | |
| 08:55 | 20 mins | Partner School Leader Presentation 1 The Tale of Two Pandemics: Disrupting Education in Post-Normal Times <i>Dina Hassan El Odessy</i> <i>Deputy Director,</i> <i>Alexandria International School, Egypt</i> | Emerging from student experiences, this presentation explores the double-sided coin of threats and opportunities, advocating for the importance of not wasting a "good crisis". It discusses how the pandemic has the potential to disrupt and change current educational realities. Reimagining the role of education, the presentation focuses on the pivotal role of social-emotional learning, holistic wellbeing, progressive pedagogies and reimagining learning in post-pandemic world. Followed by Q&A |
| 09:15 | 45 mins | Keynote 2 An Innovative Approach to Mental Health and Wellbeing in an International School <i>Dr Funke Baffour-Awuah</i> <i>Head of Counselling and Support,</i> <i>Al Rayan International School, Ghana</i> | Mental health problems are one of the most talked about barriers to learning in recent years. Al Rayan International School has engaged in an innovative project to support student mental health and wellbeing. Dr Funke provides practical approaches that schools can implement to help students thrive. Followed by Q&A |
| 10:00 | 2 hrs | Visit Exhibitors Networking | Opportunity to visit exhibitors and network with other school leaders. |
| 12:00 | 5 mins | Ice-breaker session | Chair Yoga. Welcome back after the break |
| 12:05 | 35 mins | Keynote 3 Teaching Life Skills through Real Life Projects: Making the Case for Project-Based-Learning <i>Sara Yasan</i> <i>Regional Education Specialist, UNICEF, Jordan</i> | Crises provide opportunities for change. It's always a challenge to change the outdated traditional "chalk and talk" pedagogy. Remote education is an opportunity to adopt pedagogical approaches which engage children with real life projects, promote active learning, research, investigation, critical thinking, and problem solving. Followed by Q&A |

Conference Details



Day 1- Wednesday 9 March 2022

| UK Time | Activity Duration | Session Title/ Presenter | Session Description |
|---------|-------------------|---|---|
| 12:40 | 5 mins | Partner School Video 2 | |
| 12:45 | 20 mins | Partner School Leader Presentation 2 The Power, the Purpose and the Predicament of Data Literacy, Post Pandemic <i>Rukshana Hassen</i> <i>Co-founder, Iman Academy, Sri Lanka</i> | For educators, being data literate means gathering and managing data, handling its shortcomings and interpreting what is essential to fulfil a purpose. In this new norm can data usage serve as a tool to assist educators to identify, empathise and reach out to students' academic and socio-emotional needs? Can schools use data to make informed decisions within a positive framework? This is a story about empowering educators with data literacy training to make a positive change. Followed by Q&A |
| 13:05 | 5 mins | Introduction and to welcome school leaders from the Americas | |
| 13:10 | 1 hr | Live Workshop Developing a Whole School Approach to Mental Health and Wellbeing <i>Dr. Funke Baffour-Awuah</i> <i>Head of Counselling and Support,</i> <i>Al Rayan International School, Ghana</i> | Improving mental health and wellbeing, and equipping students to be resilient, are key for 21st-century learning. Dr. Funke's framework was created to support schools to develop a Whole School Approach to promote Mental Health and Wellbeing. Dr. Funke engages attendees in group activities using her Mapping and Action tool, which highlights good practice and helps formulate a development plan towards promoting good practices for your school community's mental health and wellbeing. |
| 14:10 | 30 mins | Closed group discussions on all Keynote Presentations | |
| 14:40 | 15 mins | Presenting Your World - Regional Winners/Awards <i>Douglas Wood</i> <i>Head Value Add Products & Services,</i> <i>British Council</i> | |
| 14:55 | 10 mins | Reflections on Day 1 <i>Alison Willmott</i> <i>Facilitator</i> | |
| 15:05 | | End of Day 1 | |

Conference Details



Day 2 - Thursday 10 March 2022

| UK Time | Activity Duration | Session Title/ Presenter | Session Description |
|---------|-------------------|--|---|
| 08:00 | 15 mins | Opening Remarks | Welcome back to Day 2 of the conference and structure for the day |
| 08:15 | 35 mins | Keynote 4 The Importance of an Active Recovery for all Children and Young People <i>Victoria Wells</i> <i>Head of Sport and SEND Inclusion, Youth Sports Trust, UK</i> | The COVID-19 pandemic has created unprecedented challenges within education for schools, teachers, pupils and families. Despite well-established benefits of physical activity on mental and physical health for young people, throughout the world, children and young people reported being less active during periods of lockdown. This session explores Active Recovery, where educators are invited to prioritise fun and enjoyment through physical activity as pupils return. Followed by Q&A |
| 08:50 | 5 mins | Partner School Video 3 | |
| 08:55 | 20 mins | Partner School Leader Presentation 3 The Role of Virtual Extracurricular Activities in Enhancing Social, Emotional and Learning Skills <i>MD. Hasin Ishrak</i> <i>Guidance Counsellor, BAF Shaheen English Medium College (SEMC), Bangladesh</i> | The presentation covers how the Virtual Extracurricular Activities at BAF SEMC have helped their students remain engaged and focused on their studies. The mental wellbeing of the students is as important as physical fitness. These activities help students to stay mentally fit, maintain the strength to study and recover their social, emotional, and learning skills. Followed by Q&A |
| 09:15 | 35 mins | Keynote 5 The Role of Wellbeing in Recovering Readiness: Celebrating Assets (Not Tolerating Insufficiencies) of Learners in School <i>Sally McWilliam</i> <i>Wellbeing and Support Officer, Oxfordshire Teaching School Alliance, UK</i> | Sally explores simple strategies to help validate the emotions of students and colleagues alike and help them stay focused on their studies. This will allow us to include, celebrate and value all learning taking place in our school communities. Followed by Q&A |
| 09:50 | 2 hrs | Visit Exhibitors Networking | Opportunity to visit exhibitors and network with other school leaders. |

Conference Details

Day 2 - Thursday 10 March 2022

| UK Time | Activity Duration | Session Title/ Presenter | Session Description |
|---------|-------------------|---|---|
| 11:50 | 1 hr | Education Exchange – live event Chair: <i>Dominic Hudson</i> <i>Regional Commercial Development Manager,</i> <i>Sub-Saharan Africa,</i> <i>British Council</i> | Education Exchange webinars bring together education practitioners from around the world to develop ideas, share great practices and inspire each other to find solutions to shared challenges. We will hear from former Education Exchange panelists, as they reflect on and celebrate the resilience shown by their school communities. As the pandemic continues to disrupt education in most countries, what previously new things are now commonplace in how we deliver education? How are schools in different contexts continuing to respond to the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, whilst ensuring children have optimal learning experiences? How have we adapted to become more resilient to future shocks, and what lessons have been learned? Followed by Q&A |
| 12:50 | 5 mins | Partner School Video 4 | |
| 12:55 | 20 mins | Partner School Leader Presentation 4 A Voyage of Discovery & Learning – A Tale of Two Worlds <i>Afshan Khalid</i> <i>Beaconhouse School System,</i> <i>Pakistan</i> | As schools around the globe navigate the disruptions caused by COVID-19 and plan for a post-pandemic future, educators have had to question long-held beliefs, unlearn what they once knew, and reimagine learning. Afshan summarizes remedial interventions, evidence of best practice, and the challenges faced by Pakistan's oldest and most widespread private school network. Followed by Q&A |
| 13:25 | 30 mins | Closed group discussions on all Keynote Presentations | |
| 13:55 | 25 mins | Presenting Your World - Global Winners <i>Douglas Wood</i> <i>Head Value Add Products & Services,</i> <i>British Council</i> | |
| 14:20 | 20 mins | Reflections on day 2 and conference closing <i>Simon Higgins</i> <i>Global Head of School Examinations, British Council</i> <i>Alison Willmott</i> <i>Facilitator</i> | Final remarks |
| 14:40 | | End of conference | |

Schools Now!

2022

Biographies



Alison Willmott

Alison Willmott is an experienced education consultant, lecturer and writer. She teaches Postgraduate and Undergraduate primary education courses at St. Mary's University in London and develops resources for organisations, school leaders, teachers and learners to enhance their skills and bring enjoyment to learning.



Evelyn Forde MBE

Evelyn Forde is Headteacher of Copthall School, a girls' (11-18) academy with a culturally diverse intake in North West London. Evelyn won the TES Headteacher of the Year Award in November 2020, followed shortly by an MBE in the 2021 New Year's Honours List. Evelyn became Vice President of Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL) in September 2021.

Dr. Funke Baffour-Awuah

Dr. Funke is a clinical psychologist, author and educator. She is Head of Counselling and Support at Al-Rayan International School, Ghana.

Dr. Funke has extensive experience leading comprehensive, integrated approaches for building cultures of mental health and wellbeing. She has authored 10 books about navigating through uncertainty and change.



Schools Now!

2022

Biographies



Sara Yasan

Sara Yasan is the Regional Education Specialist at UNICEF MENA. Over the past three years, she has been working with countries in the region to improve pedagogical practices, end violence against children and advance mental health and psycho-social support in schools. Before joining the UNICEF regional office, Sara was the Chief of Education for UNICEF Country office in Iran for 4 years. She has over 15 years of experience as an educator and a counsellor in Middle East, South East Asia and North America. Sara holds a Master of Education degree in Educational Psychology and counselling from University of British Columbia in Canada.

Victoria Wells

Victoria has been a National Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Advocate, a Global Change Mentor and she has recently written a paper around the role sports sanctuaries can play to support young people as they return to school life.

Victoria also holds several governance roles within education.



Sally McWilliam

Sally works with teachers as they develop their own strategies for self-regulation in their placement and employing schools. She has written for The National Association of School-Based Teacher Trainers (NASBTT), Essential Guides for Early Career Teachers (ECTs), delivering youth and adult Mental Health First Aid locally and nationally for Initial Teacher Training (ITT) providers and their partner schools both online and face-to-face.

Schools Now!

2022

Biographies



Dina Hassan El Odessy

Dina El Odessy is the Deputy Director of Alexandria International School and a DPhil researcher at the University of Oxford. She holds an MA in Education from University College London (UCL) and a Bachelor of Arts in English from Alexandria University. She believes in the interconnected and multi-disciplinary nature of knowledge, and has been pursuing different learning opportunities in positive psychology, brain-based learning, postcolonialism, educational leadership, conflict resolution, history and cultural studies. She also works as a freelance writer, an encouragement consultant and a happiness activist, aiming at bringing change through workshops on holistic well being and development.



Rukshana Hassen

Co-founder of Iman Academy, Rukshana Hassen, holds a Master's in Education, University of Nottingham and currently heads the Academy. Rukshana is a mother of three teens, a storyteller, university lecturer and trainer. She specializes in design thinking and the integration of subjects to make learning more meaningful at K-12. She is also an advocate of alternative schooling and methodologies that break away from rote learning.

Schools Now!

2022

Biographies



Afshan Khalid

With over 25 years of experience as an educationist, Afshan Khalid is currently spearheading school evaluations and reporting on the quality of education and care of students in all Beaconhouse schools both nationally and internationally as Head of the School Evaluation Unit. She was also the founding head of the Education Operations Team Pakistan at Beaconhouse, Pakistan. Afshan is passionate about the role of data in education, with quality of learning as a core focus. She is an avid advocate of gender parity, social justice, inclusion and equity in education.

MD. Hasin Ishrak

Md. Hasin Ishrak is the Guidance Counselor of BAF Shaheen English Medium College (SEMC). Currently, he is doing his Master's in Economics from Independent University, Bangladesh. He has completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Behavioural Economics from the University of Nottingham, UK and he also has an MBA from IBA University in Dhaka.

