

Partner Schools Network

**SCHOOLS NOW! CONFERENCE
1-2 MARCH, ABU DHABI**



International Conference for the British Council Partner Schools Network

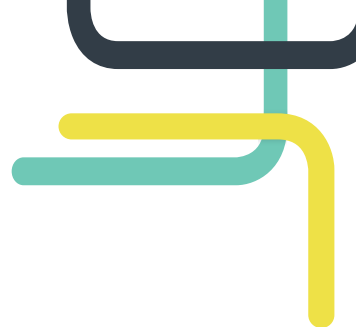
Schools Now! Empowering leaders, teachers and students (1 – 2 March 2016, Abu Dhabi)

Day 1:

Time	Action		
08:30 - 09:30	Registration and coffee		
09:30 - 10:00	Opening and welcome: Keynote Speaker/s		
10:00 - 11:00	<p>Plenary 1: Schools Now! Empowering leaders, teachers and students.</p> <p>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 discussion followed by Q&A</p>		
11:00 - 11:15	Coffee and networking		
11:15 - 12:30	<p>Parallel 1: The changing role of the school leader</p> <p>Facilitated presentations</p>	<p>Parallel 2: Core skills - education and employability</p> <p>Facilitated presentations</p>	<p>Parallel 3: Leaders, teachers and learners – inclusive approaches to quality assurance</p> <p>Facilitated presentations</p>
<p>This conference looks at three key areas of education in which there are a range of innovative practices taking place around the world which could transform schools in the future. Each theme will feature a number of contributors discussing contemporary</p>			

Time	Action
	approaches and innovations in empowering school leaders and teachers to lead and transform schools and students to develop themselves and their institutions.
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch and networking
13:30 - 14:30	<p>Plenary 2: Mind the (skills) Gap – are schools fit for purpose in the new world?</p> <p>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.</p> <p>How does the sector ensure we equip them fully, with skills for a future world we don't 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?</p> <p>Panel Discussion followed by Q&A</p>
14:30 - 15:30	<p>Gallerywalks:</p> <p>Informal discussions hosted by you and your fellow participants on the topics you care about on the themes of the conference. Why not showcase something innovating you are doing, present a case study, share research or a think piece or have a round table discussion to road-test ideas or gather feedback.</p> <p>This is a unique opportunity to share knowledge, develop potential partnerships and crucially listen to other viewpoints and insights.</p>





Time	Action
15:30 - 15:45	Coffee and networking
15:45 - 17:00	<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 skills 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> <p>Panel Discussion followed by Q&A</p>
19:00	Drinks and networking reception followed by gala dinner





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Day 2:

09:15-09:55

Breakfast briefings

There will be a number of breakfast briefings showcasing best practice and developments in British council schools and exams operations throughout the world. (Session details will follow shortly).

Time	Action
10:00 - 10:30	Welcome to Day 2 Keynote Speaker/s
10:30 - 11:30	Plenary 4: Redefining School Leadership– Challenging the status quo 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. 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? Panel discussion followed by Q&A
11:30 - 11:45	Coffee and networking





Time	Action
11:45 - 12:45	<p>Plenary 5: 'Measuring Effectiveness, Improving Outcomes' – what do examinations tell us?</p> <p>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 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 clamour 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>
12:45 - 13:30	Lunch & networking
13:30 - 14:45	<p>Student insight session:</p> <p>A student perspective on the the key issues and opportunities on the themes of the conference and potential ideas and solutions to address them. Furthermore, what are the key messages emerging for academic leaders, policy makers and employers and why they should sit up and listen!</p>
14:45 - 15:00	Concluding remarks and action planning
15:00 - 15:10	Thanks and close





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For more information get in touch with
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your local British Council website.