



ISC DIGITAL CONFERENCE 2025

"STOP, THINK, DISCUSS: SHAPING DIGITAL FUTURES TOGETHER"

#ISCDIGITAL25

EVENT PROGRAMME

ISC Digital Conference

“Stop, Think, Discuss: Shaping Digital Futures Together”

| | | | |
|----------------|--|--|--|
| 9:30 – 10:00 | Registration, coffee and networking | | |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | David Horton Welcome Address | | |
| 10:30 – 11:15 | Cat Scutt Edtech and impact: How much do we really know? | | |
| 11:15 – 12:00 | Fireside Chat: Rt Hon Jim Knight and Laura Knight The Ethics of AI in Schools: Balancing Innovation and Responsibility | | |
| 12: 00 – 13:00 | Lunch | | |
| 13:00 – 13:30 | Prof Miles Berry AI for professional development | Julie Carson Inclusion by Design | Richard Grice Filtering and Monitoring |
| 13:35 – 14:05 | Mark Steed How school leaders can harness technology for learning whilst navigating the digital world of AI and Cyberattacks | Victoria Hedlund Reflect, Adapt, Grow: Building Evidence-Informed Reflective School Cultures with LessonInspector.ai | Joe Cozens Transformative Education Design for AI |
| 14:05 – 14:25 | Comfort Break | | |
| 14:25 – 14:55 | Emma Darcy Can there ever be AI in Sustainability? Empowering your Students for a Climate Conscious Digital Future | Simon Balderson Quis Custodiet Ipsos Custodes? AI in the Classroom | Dr. Neelam Parmar Have We Taken Our Eye Off EdTech? Reframing the Conversation Around Technology-Enhanced Learning: Integration, Impact and Innovation |
| 14:55 – 15:25 | Luke Ramsden Human and Machine Teaming: Using AI to Enhance Pastoral Care in Schools | Gary Henderson Pragmatic Cyber Security for school leaders, and let’s not forget data protection | Tom Dore Olympic Esports Games: Could one of your students represent Team GB in 2027? |
| 15:25 – 15:35 | Comfort break | | |
| 15:35 – 16:20 | Hayley White A new era of student-centric assessment | | |
| 16:20 – 16:30 | David Horton Closing Thoughts | | |
| 16:30 | Conference Close | | |

Session Descriptions



Dr Catt Scutt MBE: Edtech and impact: How much do we really know?

Spend on digital technology represents a very substantial part of many schools' budgets, and with increasing financial pressures both in the private and state sector, there is an increasing need for schools to be sure that their spend is having the impact they want. But measuring the impact of edtech is complex, both for schools and for edtech companies. Drawing on learning from the EdTech Evidence Board project that the Chartered College of Teaching are delivering for the Department for Education, this session will consider:

- The need to be clear on the purposes we use edtech for
- Research and evaluation approaches around edtech
- The role of teacher CPD and implementation in ensuring impact
- How schools and edtech providers can work together to improve the impact of edtech



Lord Jim Knight and Laura Knight: The Ethics of AI in Schools: Balancing Innovation and Responsibility

Join us for a fireside chat between Laura Knight and the Rt Hon Jim Knight, former Minister of State for Schools and a leading voice in digital education and innovation policy. Together they will unpack the ethical dilemmas facing schools in the age of artificial intelligence. From data privacy and algorithmic bias to the potential for AI to enhance or undermine educational outcomes, this session will explore how schools can embrace technological innovation while upholding their values and duty of care to students and communities.

Expect an engaging and honest conversation that balances optimism and realism, offering key provocations for school leaders, IT directors, and teachers. Drawing on Jim Knight's deep experience in government and Laura Knight's expertise in AI in education, this session will blend national and policy-level perspectives with school-level realities. Together, they will spark critical debate on how to shape AI's role in education, challenging assumptions and equipping attendees to make informed, ethical decisions in their own settings.



Prof Miles Berry: AI for professional development

Artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming professional development. Drawing on my experience training teachers and leading initiatives, this session explores how AI supports educators and school-wide improvement.

AI helps teachers reflect, design interventions, and analyse student performance in real time. It fosters collaboration and adaptive instruction. At a broader level, AI provides feedback on lesson delivery, supports scenario-based training, and helps leaders track professional development needs.

However, AI raises challenges around automation, human intuition, and ethics. This session examines these issues, offering practical insights into how AI can enhance continuous learning and improve teaching outcomes.



Julie Carson: Inclusion by Design

The Woodland Academy Trust is a multi-academy trust with 5 primary schools situated within Bexley and Kent in South East London. It serves around 1600 children, and has a significantly higher proportion than national of children eligible for free school meals, children with SEND and children with EAL.

This session discusses how we combined our pedagogical approach with technology to ensure inclusion was central, and also shares challenges we had along the way. It explores:

- The vision and strategy that needs to be in place for the approach including the how this is shared and communicated across a group of schools
- The key principles of Universal Design for Learning
- Staff continuous professional development and how this was approached and what was included
- Sharing practical examples of what UDL looks like in the classroom, including planning approaches of staff
- The impact of UDL across the schools



Richard Grice: Filtering and Monitoring

In this session we will take a look at the approaches we have to filtering and monitoring when considering the different device policies we may have, be that BYOD or one-to-one and the biggest elephant in the room – the mobile phone. A framework for reviewing your own filtering and monitoring policy will be provided as a guide, and we will take a look at what the KCSIE guidance means and how this can be applied in reality (if it indeed can be). We will also discuss what the balance of physical access and digital restriction might look like within schools to see what we can learn from each other's practice.



Joe Cozens: Transformative Education Design for AI

Following a two year case study into skills needed by students for a future with artificial intelligence, Clifton High School has launched its new Skills for Tomorrow Course for Year 7 & Year 12 students, learning about AI, how to use it for school and developing the skills highlighted through UNESCO's guidance for education in 2030. This course has been designed by myself but with critical analysis and evolution from Bristol, Glasgow and Oxford University, The Alan Turing Institute, UNESCO, Microsoft and LIS and includes guest lectures from LIS. This session will explore the case study and findings to do date.



Victoria Hedlund: Reflect, Adapt, Grow: Building Evidence-Informed Reflective School Cultures with LessonInspector.ai

As teachers increasingly draw on human-created, AI-supported, and scheme-based planning, leaders face a key challenge: how to maintain a strong connection between lesson planning and the school's ethos, curriculum intent, and development priorities without adding unnecessary workload.

This session introduces LessonInspector.ai, an education-specific free tool designed to support meaningful teacher reflection aligned to the Teachers' Standards. Rather than creating a compliance culture, LessonInspector.ai offers a low-burden way for teachers to engage critically with their planning, while providing leaders with aggregated insights to inform CPD, curriculum refinement, and wider school improvement initiatives.

Whether you are leading digital strategy, curriculum development, or professional growth initiatives, you'll leave with practical strategies to embed AI-supported reflection ethically, promote staff ownership of professional learning, and strengthen whole-school development with clear, actionable planning intelligence.



Mark Steed: How school leaders can harness technology for learning whilst navigating the digital world of AI and Cyberattacks

Drawing from on examples and experiences from JESS Dubai and Kellett Hong Kong, this session will involve a discussion of the line between digital oversight and digital management. It will examine how leaders can drive strategy and direction without treading on the toes of the technical teams. It will also explore the need for school leaders to manage risk and most importantly how school leaders can harness the full potential of digital technology in order to enhance student learning.



Emma Darcy: Can there ever be AI in Sustainability? Empowering your Students for a Climate Conscious Digital Future

As technology and AI tools become increasingly integral to learning, they bring with them substantial energy demands. Addressing these environmental costs is essential for responsible technology integration in education. This session will explore the intersection of AI, educational technology and environmental sustainability, emphasising the importance of student engagement in sustainable practices within educational settings.

Participants will learn practical ways to engage students as active contributors to climate conscious technology practices. From participating in energy-saving programmes to developing skills in sustainable digital citizenship, student involvement can foster environmental awareness and digital responsibility.

The session will also address ethical considerations surrounding the environmental impact of AI and data use, discussing options to mitigate these effects. Attendees will leave with strategies to integrate sustainable practices in their institutions, empowering students to take an active role in these efforts.



Simon Balderson: Quis Custodiet Ipsos Custodes? AI in the Classroom

As AI tools rapidly reshape the educational landscape, how do we ensure they serve students and teachers responsibly, ethically, and effectively?

In this engaging and thought-provoking session, Simon draws on 24 years as a teacher, senior leader, and technologist to explore the real-world potential of AI in schools. He shares lessons from developing a personalised assistant running locally on pupils' and teachers' laptops, and an essay feedback engine using large language models, multi-agent reasoning, and Retrieval-Augmented Generation.

From reducing workload and enhancing feedback to raising important questions about data protection, bias, and the use of AI with under-18s, this session offers practical insight and philosophical reflection in equal measure. Ideal for anyone looking to move beyond the hype and towards meaningful, responsible AI integration in schools.



Dr Neelam Parmar: Have We Taken Our Eye Off EdTech? Reframing the Conversation Around Technology-Enhanced Learning: Integration, Impact and Innovation

This session asks the provocative question: Have we taken our eye off the bigger picture of EdTech? Moving beyond the digital noise and trends, it explores the full edtech ecosystem — technology, pedagogy, CPD, and operations — and offers a strategic lens on the role of technology-enhanced learning (TEL) in driving school-wide improvement. Rather than viewing these elements in isolation, the session emphasises a holistic approach to digital transformation that delivers streamlined efficiencies, enables economies of scale, and, most importantly, strengthens teaching and learning. With a focus on practical application, systemic thinking, and AI integration, this session invites school leaders and educators to reconsider how we position the wider remit of edtech as a core enabler in providing educational impact, sustainable innovation, and scalable value across the curriculum.



Tom Dore: Olympic Esports Games: Could one of your students represent Team GB in 2027?

With the IOC's recent announcement of the Olympic Esports Games in Riyadh in 2027, this session will introduce you to world of esports and help you to understand what your students are already doing on their PC's and consoles. British Esports are the UK's national body for esports and will explain the range of successful competitive and academic programmes they run, as well as critical information about safeguarding and coaching standards in esports, allowing you to develop esports in your school in a safe, structured way, mirroring what you already do in traditional sport.



Gary Henderson: Pragmatic Cyber Security: It's all about risk

"If you want a secure computer then keep it in the box." As soon as we setup a computer or other digital device, or we create an account to access data or a service we introduce cyber and data protection risk. It is therefore key that we start to focus on cyber security and data protection from a risk perspective. This leads to the questions of this session in what are the current risks, what might future risks look like and what might we do about it? The session examines cyber and data risk from a school leader perspective focussing on what school leaders need to know or the questions they need to ask, as when a cyber incident hits it's a school wide issue and therefore for school leaders to manage.



Luke Ramsden: Human and Machine Teaming: Using AI to Enhance Pastoral Care in Schools

In the evolving landscape of education, technology is transforming the way schools approach student wellbeing. This presentation focuses on how AI can complement human decision-making to improve pastoral care, using real-life examples from St Benedict's School among others. The aim of this session is to show how AI can offer valuable insights, allowing schools to provide early interventions and more personalised care, while preserving the essential human element in education.

This presentation is about showing educators how to use AI's capabilities to work smarter. The human element remains central to pastoral care, and AI provides a powerful tool to help schools better understand their students' needs and respond quickly and effectively.



Hayley White: A new era of student-centric assessment

This session will explore Pearsons approach to assessment including being student led, student choice, support for centres and shared learning for all. It will explore actions taken to date and what the examinations body has learnt from these actions before teasing as to next steps and how educators and schools can engage with and work with Pearsons.

Event Sponsors



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Event Sponsor Information



As an Apple Authorised Education Specialist, we support Independent Schools to successfully integrate Apple technology into their teaching and learning environment. We work closely with you to understand your vision for teaching and learning and work with you to develop a digital strategy underpinned by technology and CPD to ensure the best outcome for staff and students. This is developed through a series of workshops covering everything from Vision and Plan to Financial Sustainability, Deployment and CPD planning.

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