

# Acting now for future skills



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Thursday 30 November 2017, Altitude, London

### Agenda

*\*Programme subject to change*

09:00 – 10:00      **Registration and refreshments**

10:00 – 10:10      **Welcome and introduction**

**Joysy John**, Director, Education, Nesta

10:10 – 11:10      **Acting now for future skills**

*Chaired by:* **Helen Barrett**, Editor, Work and Careers, Financial Times  
**Hasan Bakhshi**, Executive Director, Creative Economy and Data Analytics, Nesta  
**Sir Michael Barber**, Chair, Office for Students  
**Lesley Giles**, Director, Work Foundation

We are used to hearing the 'rise of the robots' and which occupations will be automated. However, much less time has been spent thinking about what skills should be invested in to safeguard jobs and plan for the future. Our research provides strong evidence that a mix of social and cognitive skills - sometimes described as '21st Century skills' - are associated with occupations that are expected to become more important. How should our policymakers and educators be preparing the workforce of the future?

11:10 – 11:25      **A practical showcase**

**Steve Preston**, Managing Director and Founder, Mime and Skills Route  
**David Allison**, Co-Founder and CEO, GetMyFirstJob  
**Cath Sleeman**, Quantitative Research Fellow, Nesta

If we know what the future of skills looks like, how can we help people prepare for it? In this session we showcase exciting tools that are empowering children and adults to make better decisions about their learning, skills and professional future.

11:25 – 11:55      **Refreshments and networking**

11:55 – 12:10      **Collaborative problem solving and the PISA tests**

**Andreas Schleicher**, Director for the Directorate of Education and Skills, OECD  
*In conversation with:* **Geoff Mulgan**, Chief Executive, Nesta

This year, for the first time, the OECD have assessed 'collaborative problem solving' as part of their worldwide study of education attainment (the PISA tests). Why is collaborative problem solving important, and how does the UK compare with other countries around the world?



12:10 – 13:00

## Perspectives on collaborative problem solving in UK schools

*Chaired by:* **Geoff Mulgan**, Chief Executive, Nesta

**Alex Beard**, Senior Director, Teach for All

**Emran Mian**, Director of Strategy and Social Mobility, Department for Education

**Dr. Debra Kidd**, Teacher Trainer, Teacher and Author

What do the PISA test results mean for school children, teachers, schools and the government? Reflecting on the UK's performance in the PISA test assessment of collaborative problem solving, the session invites our panel to unpick what needs to happen at the systems level to make innovative learning in the classroom a reality.

13:00 – 14:00

## Lunch and networking

14:00 – 15:00

## Parallel sessions A

### A1 Knowledge and skills: striking a balance

*Chaired by:* **Ndidi Okezie**, Executive Director, Teach First

**Oli de Botton**, Headteacher and Co-Founder, School 21

**Heather Picov**, UK Managing Director, Apps for Good

**Xian-Zhi Soon**, Director of Youth, Education and Skills, The Behavioural Insights Team

The debate between 'knowledge' and 'skills' based learning is often phrased as an 'either/or', but there is a growing consensus that a middle way is possible. In this session, we explore innovative approaches to learning that combine knowledge, skills and real-world applications. Hear inspiring stories, unpick what works (and what doesn't) and question how to bring evidence to the classroom.

### A2 Adaptive education: 'It's the data, stupid!'

*Chaired by:* **Isabel Newman**, Associate Investment Director, Nesta

**Benedict du Boulay**, Emeritus Professor of Artificial Intelligence, University of Sussex

**Michael Trucano**, Global Lead for Technology and Innovation in Education, The World Bank

**Jim Thompson**, CEO, CogBooks

Educators collect a vast amount of data on students - from primary school through to graduation. Find out how algorithmic education solutions are beginning to exploit the potential of this data to provide personalised learning options.

### A3 So, you think you can collaborate?

*Facilitated by:* **Amy Solder**, Project Lead, Education, Nesta

**Thomas Harriott**, Deputy Head of Sixth Form, Harris Academy Battersea

**Ems Lord**, Director, NRIC

**Melenie Schatynski**, Web Developer, Primo Toys

What does collaborative problem solving look like in the classroom? Find out from two pilot programmes experimenting with different approaches in classrooms in the UK. Then, we'll test *your* skills in our collaborative coding challenge!



15:00 – 15:30

## Refreshments and networking

15:30 – 16:30

## Parallel sessions B

### B1 From playground to pension: designing policies for digital skills

*Chaired by:* **Joysy John**, Director, Education, Nesta

**Navroza Ladha**, Deputy Director, Digital Skills and Inclusion, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

**Alina Dimofte**, Skills and Education Policy Lead, Google UK

**Catherine Knivett**, Head of Partnerships, Corsham Institute

As 'digital' becomes increasingly embedded in the world around us - from how we communicate to how we learn - digital skills are no longer only required by those in technical jobs. Policy mechanisms must be aligned to move towards the right supply of skills for this future. What works, what doesn't? What skills should be prioritised? How will this vary from region to region?

### B2 University challenged

*Chaired by:* **Toby Baker**, Assistant Programme Manager, Education, Nesta

**Barbara Diehl**, Executive Director, UCD Innovation Academy

**Maija Itkonen**, Co-Founder, Gold&Green Foods

**Duncan Piper**, Director, Dyson Institute of Engineering and Technology

The UK's university sector has undergone major changes in the 21st Century – from the massive expansion of student numbers to changes in how they are financed. However, the systems for learning in universities have remained stubbornly consistent. Explore alternative university teaching models and how they might better prepare students for their futures.

### B3 Live pitching showcase

*Facilitated by:*

**Rebecca Garrod-Waters**, Chief Executive, Ufi Charitable Trust

**Dr. Debra Kidd**, Teacher Trainer, Teacher and Author

We have been asking you to submit your ideas to address one of our two 'education challenges'. Hear our shortlisted entries pitch their solutions, help them develop their ideas in workshop groups, and vote for your favourite.

16:30 – 17:30

## Closing remarks, drinks and networking

**Geoff Mulgan**, Chief Executive, Nesta