

CONFERENCE 2024

Thursday 13 June 2024 | 0845 – 1535 | Future Skills Centre, Exeter |
#SWIFTConf24 | [Book HERE](#)

Summer Conference 2024

Speakers



Paul Dix | Behaviour specialist, author, education reformer and advisor



Nav Sanghara | CEO - The Woodland Academy Trust



Paul James | CEO - River Learning Trust
Katherine Walsh | Director of Inclusion



Chris Lubbe | Award-winning Speaker, Activist & Storyteller



Dr Pooky Knightsmith | Keynote Speaker, Author & Advisor



Laura McInerney | CEO of Teacher Tapp



Associate Professor Deirdre Hughes OBE |
UK, EU and International careers policy, research and practice specialist

More Highlights

- 'Question Time' panel discussion
- Refreshments and buffet lunch, provided by Educatering
- Network with educational leaders from across the South West

SWIFT Members £90 | Other Colleagues £120

**50% discount on either rate for leaders currently completing NPQs with LSSW*

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Agenda

- 08:45 – 09:00 Registration, Refreshments & Marketplace
- 09:00 – 09:15 Welcome & Introduction
- 09:15 – 10:00 Keynote by Paul Dix
Why nice isn't working: why relational currency supports positive behaviour
- 10:05 – 10:50 Session One: Associate Professor Deirdre Hughes OBE
Leading with Vision: Transforming education for tomorrow's workforce
Session Two: Dr Pooky Knightsmith
A Whole School Approach to Mental Health
- 10:50 – 11:20 Break, Refreshments & Marketplace
- 11:20 – 12:05 Keynote by Laura McInerney
Education Trends
- 12:10 – 13:05 Question Time Panel
- 13:05 – 13:50 Lunch, Refreshments & Marketplace
- 13:50 – 14:35 Session One: Nav Sanghara
The Art of Compassionate Leadership
Session Two: Paul James & Katherine Walsh
Leading Inclusion: What Works?
- 14:35 – 15:20 Keynote by Chris Lubbe
My journey from apartheid to truth & reconciliation
- 15:20 – 15:35 Closing words



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Speaker Information



Why nice isn't working: why relational currency supports positive behaviour

PAUL DIX

We work with hundreds of schools in the UK and beyond that are nice schools; that have great teachers and kind leaders. We see schools that are rich in SEN support and pastoral care. Yet there are many schools still struggling with low level disruption, internal truancy and antisocial behaviours. Leading author and behaviour specialist Paul Dix will help us learn how to walk the middle road where we hold high expectations and clear boundaries whilst creating a secure and nurturing learning environment. Paul will share the 'how to' with practical tips and highly relatable anecdotes.

Speaker Bio

Behaviour specialist, author, education reformer and advisor. Helping teachers and headteachers across the world with transformational relational behaviour practice.

As a teacher, leader and teacher trainer, Paul has been working with the most difficult behaviours in the most challenging contexts for the last 27 years. Miraculously Paul studied at Homerton College Cambridge after countless attempts to sabotage his own education.

Paul fell in love with teaching while working as a Teaching Assistant after leaving school. Teaching both inspired and drew him in due to the creativity, the variety and the cohort after cohort of utterly brilliant children he encountered.

Paul has delivered training and spoken on large stages all over the world, advised the English Department for Education on Teacher Standards, given evidence to the Education Select Committee and carried out extensive work with the Ministry of Justice on Behaviour and Restraint in Youth Custody.

His book *When The Adults Change, Everything Changes* published in 2017 by Crown House is the best-selling education book of the 21st century. It has sold more than 150,000 copies. The follow-up *After The Adults Change* was released last year.

Paul's new book 'When the Parents Change Everything Changed' was published by Penguin Random House on September 5th 2023.



Leading with Vision: Transforming education for tomorrow's workforce

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR DEIRDRE HUGHES OBE

Standing at the crossroads of an ever-evolving future, the ability to navigate what lies ahead necessitates a good understanding of the dynamic forces shaping our work, spanning technological breakthroughs to cultural shifts. Change, risk, and uncertainty beckon us to adapt and thrive in this era of unparalleled transformation. Within the realm of education, the revolutionising impact of AI and large language models on teaching methodologies and learner experiences underscores the imperative for individuals to flourish in a culture of lifelong learning from an early age. A pivotal question emerges: What is our vision for a technologically advanced and human-centric society?

In the face of forthcoming challenges and opportunities, addressing societal changes and enhancing citizens' quality of life, particularly those most vulnerable, requires the effective utilisation of skills, career exploration and well-being support services, and innovation. This keynote will delve into these critical issues, inviting the audience to contemplate future possibilities and shape a proactive path forward.

Speaker Bio

Deirdre Hughes specialises in education, careers, employment and skills policies, research and practice at an international, national and regional level. She is an Associate Professor at the University of Warwick, Institute for Employment Research (IER) and Founding Director of CareerChat (UK) Ltd – a pioneering technology start-up company focused on career exploration and the effective use of artificial intelligence (AI). She is also Managing Director of dmh associates – an independent research and consultancy company.

Some selected examples of her current research include harnessing AI and large language models (LLMs) to support career exploration; career-related learning in primary schools, community places and online spaces for all-age careers support and wellbeing. She has co-edited three new books (in press, Routledge) on *Art of the Truth: Creative methods for guidance and counselling*; *Decent work, inclusion and sustainability*; and *Migration: Towards a more inclusive society*. In 2012, Deirdre was awarded an Order of the British Empire by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II for services to lifelong guidance.



Speaker Information



A Whole School Approach to Mental Health

DR POOKY KNIGHTSMITH

Determine how well your schools are currently meeting the mental health needs of students and staff and explore practical next steps to build on current strengths and address areas of challenge. Designed to act as a springboard for school improvement, this session works best when attendees come with an open mind ready to celebrate what's working well and challenge what isn't.

Speaker Bio

Pooky has a PhD from the Institute of Psychiatry, Kings College London, is the former chair of Children and Young People's Mental Health Coalition, the author of several books and educator of thousands through her speaking, online training and YouTube videos.

Pooky's knowledge, ideas and advice come from years of study, practice and hard-earned lived experience with PTSD, anorexia, self-harm and depression. She's an autistic mum of two (one biological daughter, one adopted) who enjoys bouldering, paragliding, walking and singing when she's not teaching.



Education Trends

LAURA MCINERNEY

Education Trends 2024 - we will take an in depth look at a variety of topics such as Ofsted, exam changes, workload, etc.

Speaker Bio

Laura McNerney is an education journalist, former teacher, and co-founder of Teacher Tapp, the daily app uncovering teachers' secret lives. She started her career teaching for six years in east London comprehensives before being taken to court by Michael Gove for asking a difficult question about free schools. (She eventually won). Following this, Laura became a journalist, writing a monthly column in The Guardian and editing Schools Week, where her team won national awards for their hard-hitting scoops.

She is now the co-founder of Teacher Tapp, a daily survey app of 10,000 teachers, which reveals previously unknown insights about teachers' lives. For example, it recently found that teachers working in Outstanding schools more often go to the pub together on a Friday (though causation is not yet proven!)

Laura has authored several books, including Leading Academy Trusts with Sir David Carter, and The Juggling Act with Professor Toby Salt. Known for being blunt, Laura is also known for being fair and an equal critic of politicians on either side of the spectrum. She is also a mastermind on past education secretaries – having maintained a database since 2013 detailing the particulars of each one.



The Art of Compassionate Leadership

NAV SANGHARA

- Authentic leadership and finding your path.
- Highs and lows of leadership and how to overcome.
- What really matters in leadership?

Speaker Bio

Nav became the CEO of The Woodland Academy Trust in January 2021. She began her career as a teaching assistant and became a Headteacher in 2012. Throughout her career Nav has been driven to serve school communities with ambition, equity and excellence. She is passionate about high-quality professional development and building inclusive, learning communities that are underpinned by relationships and connection.

Nav is always happy to share her thoughts on education themes, you can follow her on Twitter @NavSanghara



Speaker Information



Leading Inclusion: What Works?

PAUL JAMES & KATHERINE WALSH

River Learning Trust, an academy trust of twenty-eight schools, places meaningful inclusion at the heart of everything it does. Paul and Katherine will share their Inclusion Strategy and the process they undertook to identify the key priorities. The presentation will include case studies from individual schools identifying small changes that led to significant impact, as well as system-level approaches enabling stronger provision in schools.

Speaker Bio

Paul began his teaching career in 1994 as a teacher of science and has held various senior leadership roles in a range of secondary education settings. He has also been a primary school governor and Interim Executive Board member. Until 2016 he was Headteacher of The Cherwell School, a comprehensive school of over 1900 students, which is currently a Teaching School Hub. He was accredited as a National Leader of Education in 2013 and is the founding Chief Executive of RLT.

Paul is also a member of the steering group for the Community Impact Zone in Oxford which seeks to tackle inequality and increase social mobility. He also Chairs the Oxford Strategic Partnership which brings together senior representatives from the public, business, community and voluntary sectors to help provide direction for the city's future, respond to local priorities and engage more effectively with local concerns. Paul is also a Trustee of the National Foundation for Education Research and a member of the DfE South East Regions Group Advisory Board.

Katherine is an experienced teacher and school leader, bringing more than 15 years' experience to her role. She is an experienced SENCO, with experience leading SEND provision in mainstream schools in England and America. Katherine has taught in both primary and secondary schools as a class teacher, qualified teacher of the deaf and autism resource base teacher.

Over the past ten years, Katherine has developed particular expertise in working with leadership teams to develop school-wide systems, establishing shared and inclusive visions for the education of children and young people with SEND. Katherine is the regional SEND leader for South Central England and Northwest London with Whole School SEND and was a project director for the Educational Endowment Foundation's SEND Review Trial. She contributed to the drafting of the NPQ SENCO Content Framework was a lead author for the Teacher Handbook: SEND.



My journey from apartheid to truth & reconciliation

CHRIS LUBBE

Speaker Bio

Born at a very difficult period in South Africa's history, Chris made a decision very early in his life to become an activist and oppose the racially based system of 'apartheid'. Chris made the decision to choose the path of peaceful resistance which culminated in Nelson Mandela's release from prison on the 11th February 1990. After Nelson Mandela's release from prison in 1990 and the subsequent fall of 'apartheid' Chris was handpicked by Nelson Mandela to become one of his bodyguards. Apart from fulfilling body-guarding duties, Chris became involved in the delicate negotiations with the 'apartheid regime' which resulted in subsequent agreement, the drafting of the new constitution and finally culminating in the first democratic elections in South Africa. Chris worked with Nelson Mandela for 9 years up until his retirement.

As a keynote speaker Chris uses stories from his past to inspire positive change while sharing techniques on overcoming adversity. Chris also covers various themes including determination, courage, humanity, responsibility, courage and forgiveness. Despite meeting a vast array of world leaders and celebrities, Chris draws mainly from the important lessons he learned from working with Nelson Mandela and Desmond Tutu.



Executive Director of SWIFT – Martin Smith

We are delighted to invite you to attend the SWIFT Summer Conference, taking place on Thursday 13 June, 2024, at the Futures Skills Centre, Exeter.

We are pleased to welcome an excellent line-up of speakers to this year's conference, including:

- **Paul Dix** - author of 'When the Adults Change' - leading behaviour specialist, author and reformer
- **Laura McInerney** - co-founder of Teacher Tapp, former editor of Schools Week and public speaker
- **Chris Lubbe** - internationally acclaimed inspirational keynote speaker, drawing on story of resistance against the apartheid in South Africa
- **Navdeep Sanghara** - CEO of The Woodland Academy Trust, a primary MAT in Kent, speaking on trust leadership
- **Paul James** (CEO) and **Katherine Walsh** (Director of Inclusion) from the River Learning Trust in Oxfordshire - speaking on leading inclusion and SEND within and across schools.
- **Associate Professor Deirdre Hughes OBE** - policy adviser, academic researcher / writer specialising in AI and Careers Education
- **Dr Pooky Knightsmith** - internationally respected speaker, lecturer, trainer and author of child and adolescent mental health and additional needs.
- Specialist panel for Question Time style session

This amazing line-up reflects our vision to create world-class opportunities for leaders to learn, develop and connect. We are passionate about enabling schools in the South West to have access to the best of regional, national and international research as we know many school leaders experience varying degrees of rural and coastal isolation.

We also know your time as leaders is precious and funding limited in schools. Our conference programme will provide choice so you can select what best meets your interests and priorities. And because SWIFT is not-for-profit, we can offer this high-quality experience to SWIFT members at just £90 and £120 all other colleagues. And if you are one of the 900 leaders currently training on one of our NPQs with LSSW, you are eligible for a 50% discount.

We look forward to welcoming you on 13 June.

Martin Smith

Executive Director of SWIFT

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