

The role of young people and tech in transforming education

Thursday 25th May – Friday 26th May 2023

Biographies



Jonas Andrew-Phillip

Jonas is a Programme Management Apprentice at Lewisham Council, a Young International Multi-Award-Winning TEDx Speaker, Workshop Facilitator and Host. He facilitates career and personal progression workshops, programmes and speeches for young people. Using his own personal transformation story of wasteman to winner Jonas supports his peers to have an understanding that they have the untapped potential to achieve whatever they want in their life irrelevant of their background or circumstance. He also hosts the 'Let's Talk Facts' podcast where he interviews professionals, entrepreneurs and young people for the education and entertainment of others. When he is not delivering dynamic content Jonas likes to play basketball, meet new people, watch Football whilst eating Cookie Dough ice-cream or playing his PlayStation and many more things.



Elijah Bach

Elijah is a husband, father, entrepreneur, and philanthropist. He is a former Founder/CEO of a real estate investment/holdings firm for 20 years. Since retirement in 2020, his current interests include global philanthropy through his charitable foundation, with a mission to help parents become better-educated, supported, and engaged parents as they strive for their children's future educational and professional success. Born in Seoul, Korea, Elijah began his American journey in Minnesota as a teenage son of a homeless, immigrant single mother and studied at the University of Minnesota as an undergraduate student, before getting other graduate degrees and executive certificates from Harvard University and University of Pennsylvania. In the community, he performs violin and provides free instruments and lessons. He also runs marathons and diligently trains at the gym to one day become the next American Ninja Warrior. He lives with his wife and children in New York City.



Okan Dursun

Okan has recognised as one of the 17 Young Leaders for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) during the start of the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly in 2022.

Okan is the Founding Member of Twin Science, the world's first ed-tech company that combines science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) learning with SDGs education for young people to raise them as tomorrow's change makers. Twin Science has reached more than one million young people with Twin STEM Kits and the Twin mobile app in over 70 countries. Twin Science has been recognized as a "Technology Pioneer" by the World Economic Forum, won BETT Awards 2020 and the Silver Play for Change Award from Toy Industry of Europe.

As a student, Okan started his journey with the Young Guru Academy, one of Turkey's leading NGOs, while studying at university. He was selected as one of the 50 young talents among 50,000 applicants to develop impact-driven projects for refugees, orphans, the visually impaired, and others through volunteerism.

Passionate about eliminating inequality in education worldwide, Okan has also been leading a social responsibility project called the World Science Movement (WSM). The project aims to give children better access to STEM education. WSM has reached over 500,000 underprivileged children in Cameroon, Ghana, South Africa, Tanzania, Kenya and Turkey. Okan believes that no curious mind should be left behind and he is dedicated towards working for this purpose until reaching all young people around the world.



Alastair Falk

Alastair's career has encompassed three Headships; work on education strategy at a local and national level and setting up of new education organisations. His first Headship was a single form entry primary, after which he moved to become the founding Head of a new secondary school in North East London, before becoming Principal of one of the first Academies, an all age school that included primary, secondary and SEN provision. He has also worked as Director of the Reed Foundation's Academy of Enterprise, where he designed the first national GCSE level qualification in Enterprise Capabilities, Director of Educational Leadership for a national education charity and CEO of the Birmingham Education Partnership. His role in FED includes developing the online FEDspace events and the programme for the FED summits.



Caroline Fisher

Caroline is a Senior Product Manager in the Digital and Assessment Team, specialising in the effective analysis and reporting of assessment results throughout school years. With a focus on digitising the process, Caroline is looking for ways to reduce the administrative burden and provide analysis to help teachers with planning, teaching and targeted interventions.

Prior to the five years at Pearson, Caroline worked for RM Education (specialising in school MIS) and for NFER (The National Foundation for Educational Research).



Lella Halloum

Lella is a Digital Changemaker and Power of Youth Champion. Since 2020, she has connected thousands of young people and lifelong learners globally to industry leaders and policymakers. Lella uses technology as a catalyst to drive the UN Sustainable Development Goals & ensures young people are at the fore of the ongoing digital transformation.

Through her work at IBM, Lella strives to diversify the industry by creating more opportunities for young people, particularly underserved & underrepresented communities and those with non-traditional academic backgrounds, highlighting the important role young people play in industry and wider society. She does so as a pluralist working across industry, public sector, global government and at the grassroots. Her story was spotlighted as a New Creator within the IBM Let's Create campaign, alongside other luminaries applying technology to create the transformation that businesses and the world need.

Lella is a frequent global United Nations & IBM speaker, thought leader, and advocate for young people, bringing her personal mission to life by engaging thousands of students globally through tech events and social media and, with IBM's support, in creating student-led webinars that are entirely for, with and by youth.

Her efforts towards United Nations Sustainable Development Goals - Quality Education, Gender Equality, Decent Work & Economic Growth & Reduced Inequalities have been recognised through receiving the Princess Diana Award, Harvard Book Prize and as a finalist in the Women of the Future Young Star category & the Northern Power Women Awards 'One to Watch' category.



Penelope Harrison

Penelope currently studies a dual degree in English and French Law alongside occupying a prominent role as disability rights activist and researcher. The outgoing chair of young trustees at Whizz-Kidz, she has particular interests in sustainability, intersectionality and global collaboration which she peruses through an internship with Plan International and a Vogue Business mentorship program.

Through her work with the FED, the 20-year old wishes to use her leadership experience, and lived experience as a disabled woman, to seek out and welcome voices typically excluded from conversations. She hopes that, in doing so, she will aid in the creation of a world more fair than the one she grew up in.



David Jaffa

David is Founder of the National Talent Academy which helps young people prepare for successful, futureproof careers. David previously founded SAM Learning, an online GCSE revision programme used extensively in the UK and worldwide. David won the BETT Outstanding Achievement Award for lifetime achievements in EdTech and volunteers for Innovate-Ed, which explores how innovation in education can be more impactful for learners but less disruptive to the system.



Geraint Jones

Professor Jones is Executive Director & Associate-Pro-Vice-Chancellor at Coventry University's National Institute of Teaching & Education (NITE), an Institute which he founded. Formerly, he was Chief Education Officer at Cognita Schools, Dean of the School of Education at the University of Buckingham, an Ofsted inspector and a head teacher. Geraint writes on educational matters in the national media in the UK and is a columnist for the Times Educational Supplement. Geraint won an international education award for pioneering a new school day structure. He also wrote Wake 'n Shake, a physical activity programme for school children, now practised in schools worldwide. He was involved in implementing the education strategy for London's successful bid to host the 2012 Olympic Games, and has advised government education ministries in the UK, South East Asia and the UAE.



Nick Kind

Nick is a Managing Director in Tyton Partners' Consulting Practice, based in the UK but operating around the world. He specializes in working with impact investors, family offices, philanthropies, foundations and other mission-driven organisations on where to allocate their money for social and financial return in education, with particular emphasis on K-12 system change and the Future of Work. Previously, Nick spent sixteen years developing educational software for every age group and across the globe, including co-founding a "dot-com" start up in 1999. Later, he moved into strategy and corporate development at one of Europe's largest media organisations, the Holtzbrinck Publishing Group.



Claire Madzura

Claire is a member and former co-Chair of the Learners' Council at The Foundation for Education Development as well as an Ambassador for the #iwill Movement. Through her activism, she spends her time supporting young people from underrepresented backgrounds to progress to further education. Ensuring that the barriers to education are tackled by equity from all stakeholders is important to her because she stands firmly with providing those who need the most support the tools they need to succeed first. Claire has worked with Teach First and UNICEF to help bridge the gap between stakeholders and hopes to shape a world in which every young person understands how powerful their voice is.



Jo Malone

Jo is passionate about the transformative power of education. Following 15 years in the classroom as a secondary teacher, AST, curriculum and pastoral leader, Jo worked as Senior Education Adviser and Senior Project Manager at the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change for ten years. She was privileged to build and develop networks of stakeholders including policy makers, educational leaders and educators across 60 plus countries working on various projects focused on community cohesion, dialogue and combatting extremism.

At the FED Jo led on the 2021-22 national consultation and co-authored the subsequent report. This year she has led on the consultation project between the FED and the OECD on education for human flourishing, the FED's work on climate change and sustainability, alongside working up long-term planning mechanisms and methodologies in education policy making for the 2023 report.

Jo's consultation work outside of the FED sees her working on character and arts education opportunities for some of the most underserved children and young people, working with partners as diverse as The Hallé orchestra, Spitfire enthusiasts and universities. Jo is co-founder of WECAN, a women consultants and advisers in education group, she is the Global Education Policy Advisor for Persona Education and a primary school governor.



Rania Marandos

Dr Marandos is an independent consultant in the non-profit sector and National Director for the Foundation of Education Development. She believes in the power of young people and collaboration to achieve lasting system change.

Rania started her career at the London Probation Service and then focused on large-scale capability building programmes at McKinsey & Company. As Head of Strategy at Teach First, she led on shaping the charity's renewed vision and strategy with multi-stakeholder involvement, resulting in the development of ambitious collective goals to address educational inequity that the Fair Education Alliance is working towards achieving. Rania was a founding team member and later Chief Executive of Step Up To Serve, the time-limited charity that coordinated the #iwill campaign until 2020. She enabled organisations from all sectors to work in partnership with young people to solve our most pressing societal challenges.

Rania is Trustee of United Learning Trust and London Bubble Theatre Company and a mentor to charity leaders through the Cranfield Trust. She has a BSc and PhD in Psychology from the University of York.



Ben Mason

Following 16 years in teaching across the state and independent sectors, Ben founded globalbridge, a pioneering EdTech platform, to level the playing field of opportunity and help schools evidence student outcomes via a multimedia learner profile.

globalbridge was created to support how schools evidence student talent and skills to complement the digital media advances in the emerging talent recruitment space.

Listed in the Business Cloud UK EdTech top 50 for most innovative education technology creators, Ben himself was also listed in The Sunday Times top 100 entrepreneurs.

Ben and globalbridge co-lead a number of OECD 'Future of Education and Skills 2030' projects. One looking at how educational outcomes can be more inclusive and equitable for all learners.



Martin McKay

Martin founded Texthelp in 1996 to help people with communication difficulties. What started as a company focused on people with profound Speech and Dexterity Disabilities has become a world leading Assistive Technology company creating smart, inclusive software that helps people read, write, express their thoughts and share information more accurately & fluently – across all stages of life. His goal is to make sure that by 2030 Texthelp will have advanced the literacy and understanding of one billion people. Martin has spent his work life developing technology for people with disabilities. In the past, he has served on the Assistive Technology Industry Association Board as well as the NIMAS board for the USA Office of Special Education Programs. In 2017, he received the Presidential Award in recognition of lifetime contribution to dyslexia and literacy from the International Dyslexia

Martin was also recognised as best international entrepreneur and was named overall winner of EY Entrepreneur of the Year (Ireland). He is currently serving in an advisory capacity on the Universal Design for Learning council.



Joann McPike

A deeply rooted passion for education has been the driving force behind most of Joann's visionary work. Her conviction that there is no "one size fits all" in education, led her to create THINK Global School in 2010. The school is a not-for-profit project-based traveling boarding school, in which students from every continent, race, and religion travel with their teachers through 12 different countries during a three-year high school experience. Joann also founded the Re-Imagining Education conference together with Big Change, connecting global education innovators and thought-leaders on the feasibility and scalability of various reform initiatives in classrooms around the world. The conference inspired her to executive-produce the documentary "A Cure For The Common Classroom". Joann is a founding member of The B-Team, exploring business as a force for good, 100% Percent Human At Work, and she supports education innovators HundrEd, as well as Brookings Institute's work around parental engagement.

As someone familiar with developing and scaling projects, Joann continues to offer valuable insights on how to push for more effective and relevant ways to prepare our children for tomorrow's world.



Essie North

Essie is Big Change's CEO and oversees their work across three drivers of transformation in education and learning: shifting purpose, power and practice so we set up all young people to thrive in life, not just exams.

Essie's focus has been change and transformation in different forms throughout her career. Her background in neuroscience was originally applied through 10 years in strategy consulting working with the leaders of 500 top global businesses around how to rethink leadership and organisational change.

Big Change are rethinking charity as a catalyst for long term change, supporting a new wave of leaders with bold ideas to show that a new way is possible and working with global allies to change the conversation (and action) around education and learning.



Shaun Odili

Shaun is a Policy Analyst within the Foreign Exchange Division at the Bank of England. He is a project advisory board member for The Young Foundation, a member of the FED Learners Council and was the 2022 Y20 youth employment delegate for the UK. He was born in Nigeria but grew up in London and has keen interests in sports, fitness, music and cooking. He is passionate about the education and the necessity to create an education system that is more skills focused and is suited to the requirements of the modern world.



Charlie Radman

Charlie is the Global Head of Education at HP, Inc., managing a multi-billion-dollar global education technology business. With over 23 years at HP, 14 years focused on education, Charlie leads a team of experts developing HP's global education strategy. Additionally, Charlie is focused on helping HP achieve the corporate sustainability goals of improving education outcomes for 100M people by 2025 and accelerating Digital Equity for 150M people by 2030 to help realize UN Sustainable Development Goal 4, including working with global partnerships such as T4 Education, 1Million Teachers, Global Partnership for Education, and Global Business Coalition for Education to name a few.



Sreehari Ravindranath

Dr. Ravindranath is the Associate Director of Research and Impact at Dream a Dream, Bangalore, India. His research focuses on evidence-informed policy-making and reforms in education systems. He is a psychologist, who specialized in Educational Psychology and Educational Technology and worked extensively on epistemology, assessment, pedagogy around social and emotional learning, and educational philosophy. He has published numerous journal articles, reports, books, and book chapters around system level social and emotional interventions, education in emergencies, the interplay of education and technology and served as the principal invigilator for research projects in collaboration with UNFPA, OECD, and research collaborations with multiple state governments in India.



Meredith Reeve

Meredith is Head of Next Generation Assessment and Qualification Development for Pearson's UK and International secondary school markets. Meredith has held a number of key leadership roles in education and has a wealth of experience in qualifications and assessment delivery and standards leadership across academic, vocational, and skills-based qualifications. Meredith now leads teams across the Pearson business in strategy, research and development and innovation in assessment, with a specific focus on the role of onscreen technologies. She also leads the development of secondary UK and International qualifications and is responsible for Secondary Professional Development for teachers delivering Pearson secondary qualifications in the UK.



Nathan Richardson

Nathan's passion for blending his technology background with education stems from his time as a US Peace Corps Volunteer in Senegal (1993-1995) and as Country Director of The International Rescue Committee in Liberia (2006-2007.) He has been on the Brookings Institute's Centre for Universal Education Leadership Council since its formation. Mr. Richardson is a Partner at Joffre Capital where he is a NED at Investing.com and Grindr (NYSE: GRND) Nathan was an Executive Vice President at Red Ventures from August 2019 until October 2021. Mr. Richardson was the CEO/co-Founder of Trading Ticket, Inc., a financial technology company that sold to TradingView in August 2019. Prior to that he was the President of Gilt City and Gilt Man., subsidiaries of the Gilt Groupe Inc., which is an online shopping and lifestyle website, from 2009 to 2012. He was the CEO of ContentNext Media and led the sale to Guardian News & Media in 2008. Prior to that he was a Senior Vice President and General Manager at Dow Jones Online at Dow Jones & Company, Inc. from 2005 to 2006. Mr. Richardson worked at Yahoo Inc. from 2000 to 2005, most recently as a General Manager of Yahoo! Finance. Prior to that, he served as a Global Emerging Markets Management Associate at Citigroup Inc., an investment bank and financial services company, from 1998 to 1999. Mr. Richardson received his bachelor of science degree in Business from Babson College. Mr. Richardson holds an M.B.A. from Georgetown University.



Dan Sandhu

Founder, Executive, Investor in SaaS, Education Technology, Services, Digital, and Media.

Dan has an extensive career leading and guiding numerous education teams, both in the UK and internationally. And after over five years as Chief Executive of one of the UK's Leading Ed Tech's, Sparx Learning, he has recently stepped down. Over his tenure Sparx Learning grew from serving 2 to over 2,200 schools, supporting 2 million students, covering 60% of all secondary schools in England and with a footprint in 24 countries.

Dan sits on the Board of BESA (British Educational Suppliers Association), was the founding director of the Ed Tech Evidence Group and is on the Leadership council at the Centre for Universal Education at The Brookings Institution in Washington.

Dan has worked in commercial, executive, investment and non-executive capacities in the US, India, Philippines, Romania, Canada, Hong Kong, Poland, France, Germany, Australia and China. Dan is a regular author in education and technology publications and is on the Judging panel of the Education Investor awards 2023. Dan sits on the board of Foresight VCT plc, a £200m UK based fund, as a Non-Executive Director.



Andreas Schleicher

Andreas is Director for Education and Skills at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). He initiated and oversees the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) and other international instruments that have created a global platform for policy-makers, researchers and educators across nations and cultures to innovate and transform educational policies and practices.

He has worked for over 20 years with ministers and education leaders around the world to improve quality and equity in education.

Andreas is the recipient of numerous honours and awards, including the "Theodor Heuss" prize, awarded in the name of the first president of the Federal Republic of Germany for "exemplary democratic engagement". He holds an honorary Professorship at the University of Heidelberg.



Karen Scott

Karen joined the LEGO Group in 2020 to lead the global implementation of Child Safeguarding policies and processes. In 2023 Karen's role expanded to lead the strategic overview and expansion of child participation across the LEGO Group. Karen previously worked at NCA CEOP, leading engagement with the games sector, NGOs and academia, to holistically and collaboratively enhance safeguards online. As a registered social worker Karen has dedicated her career to promoting the rights of children and creating safe and empowering environments for children to create, learn and play. Karen now lives in Scotland and enjoys exploring the countryside with her family and renovating her 120 year old house.



Victor Sosanya

Victor is an award-winning economics graduate and a member of the FED Learners Stakeholder Council. He started his career as an equity trader at Credit Suisse Investment Bank after receiving a scholarship to study at the University of Warwick. He was awarded the 9th Top Future Leader celebrating outstanding African and African Caribbean students in the UK and the Global Undergraduate Winner 2022 in the Economics category for his research paper. Victor is a skilled public speaker and workshop facilitator with a proven track record of over five years in training students and graduates to improve their communication skills.



Trish Sparks

Trish is CEO at Clever, a digital learning platform used by over 95,000 US K-12 schools. Trish joined Clever as Vice President of Customer Success in 2019 with a wealth of previous executive leadership experience at companies such as LinkedIn, where she scaled a global customer success organization, and at DemandBase, where she served as Chief Customer Officer. As a North Carolina Teaching Fellows Scholar, she started her career as a middle school teacher in Wake County Public Schools. Trish holds BS degrees in Business and Education as well as an MBA from Meredith College in Raleigh, NC.



Claire Thwaites

Senior leader in government affairs, public policy and social initiatives. Claire joined the LEGO Group in 2019 to head Government & Public Affairs in Europe, Middle East and Africa. Prior to this role, she led Apple Inc's EMEA Government Affairs team for 10 years. With senior roles in Vodafone and the United Nations, Claire has lived in Brussels and Washington DC, and now resides back in London. Claire was a founder of the mHealth Alliance in the US. She has a track record in successfully building & leading cross cultural & diverse teams. A former marathon runner Claire now enjoys long dog walks, the theatre and is making her way through the WSET sommelier qualification. She also chairs a local farmers market in Oxfordshire.



Mike Trucano

Michael is a Visiting Fellow at the Brookings Institution, focusing on the innovative uses of new technologies in education. His work at Brookings focuses on a variety of related topics, including digital education credentials, generative AI in education, and 'edtech' policymaking and institutional capacity building after COVID. Before joining Brookings, Mike spent 26 years at the World Bank, where he served as Global Lead for Technology & Innovation in Education, co-founded the Bank's edtech team, and provided policy advice, research and technical assistance to governments in over 70 countries seeking to utilize new technologies in their education systems.



Matthew Walker

A graduate of the Government's Fast Stream programme, Matt has undertaken a number of roles within Government, most notably as the Department for International Trade's (DIT) Head of the Devolved Government Partnerships, where he was responsible for helping Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland achieve their Foreign Direct Investment and Export targets; and also as the Head of the UK Government's Outward Direct Investment (ODI) programme, where he led the team which created, tested and then implemented the UK Government's ODI Strategy, which is now a Department for Business and Trade (DBT) policy.

More recently, Matt moved into the private sector, heading up the International Strategy and Government Relations team, within an Advanced materials company, to ensure the company was well placed to become a global leader within the graphene sub-sector; whilst also delivering the company's international expansion ambitions via a South Korean technology acquisition.



Michael Yogman

Dr. Yogman recently retired from paediatric practice after 35 years and continues to teach, write and do research as Assistant Professor of Paediatrics at Harvard Medical School. Currently in addition to his role on the Board of Franciscan Childrens, he is a Board Chair of UrbanThinkscape/PlayfulLearningLandscapesActionNetwork and serves on the Leadership Council of the Centre on Universal Education at the Brookings Institute. Currently, he is a trustee of Boston Basics and Chair of the Advisory Board and a Past Board Chair of the Boston Children's Museum, immediate past Chair of the Massachusetts American Academy of Paediatrics Child Mental Health Task Force and past Chair of the national American Academy of Paediatrics Committee on Psychosocial Aspects of Child and Family Health where he has authored policy statements on fathers role with children, perinatal depression, the power of play, trauma, toxic stress and resilience and addressing early childhood behavioural problems. He is on the advisory board of Boston Landmarks Orchestra, the American Repertory Theatre and Fathers Uplift.



Carl Ward

Carl is Chair of the Foundation for Education Development (FED). He is also Chief Executive of the City Learning Trust; a 3 to 19 Academy Trust in Staffordshire. He has regional, national and international experience in education strategy, leadership development and school to school improvement.

In a career spanning 26 years in teaching, 18 of them in senior leadership, Carl has worked in a range of schools and organisations across a number of settings. Further to this, Carl was ASCL President in 2017-2018 and between 2009 and 2011, was part of the Prime Minister's Talent & Enterprise Taskforce. He has also advised the Number 10 policy unit on several aspects of education.

As Chair of the Careers and Enterprise Company's Education Advisory Board since its inception he has helped guide national careers strategy. He has previously been Chair for the Schools Cooperative Society and the Chartered College of Teaching's trustee selection committee. He is a serving council member of the International Confederation of Principals and a member of the Global Education Leaders Partnership. In addition, Carl has been a member of the Education Funding Agency advisory board; DfE School and Academy Funding Group; Confederation of School Trust Board and the European School Head teachers Association.

In 2020 Carl was recognised for his impact in education and named as a Fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching, and as a Fellow of the Leadership Council at the Centre for Universal Education, Brookings Institution, Washington DC.



Rebecca Winthrop

Rebecca Winthrop is a Senior Fellow and Director of the Centre for Universal Education at the Brookings Institution. Her research focuses on education globally, with special attention to the skills young people need to thrive in work, life, and as constructive citizens.

Dr. Winthrop works to advance education systems transformation, including exploring how education innovations and family-school collaboration can be harnessed to leapfrog progress, particularly for the most marginalized youth. She advises governments, international institutions, civil society organizations, foundations and corporations on education issues. She currently serves as a board member and advisor for a number of global education organizations and lectures at Georgetown University.

Winthrop has authored numerous articles, reports, books, and book chapters, including most recently *Transforming Education Systems: Why, What, and How* with Hon. Minister David Sengeh, *Collaborating to Transform and Improve Education Systems: A Playbook for Family-School Engagement* with Adam Barton, Mahsa Ershadi, and Lauren Ziegler and *Leapfrogging Inequality: Remaking Education to Help Young People Thrive* with Adam Barton and Eileen McGivney.

She was educated at Columbia University, Teachers College (Ph.D., 2008), Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs (MA, 2001), and Swarthmore College, (BA, 1996).