

Report: Global Learning in the Curriculum, British Council

Words: Crista Hazell (ALL Council Member)

A truly inspired conference held at the British Council offices in Spring Gardens with a wide range of inspirational forward-thinking professionals from across the educational sector and subject associations to share their research, rational and good practice behind global projects which have helped form robust curriculums within primary, secondary and international schools with a global learning focus.

Contributions were shared from all sectors of education with universities and subject associations (the Geographical Association and the Design Technology Association), RE, Maths from both here in the UK and overseas. It was heartening to learn of these projects being led by non-linguists with a drive to ensure that the global curriculum focus is not left to languages specialists, although it was recognised that their help, support and guidance is much appreciated.

There were breath-taking presentations from passionate middle and senior leaders, consultants, professors and advisors throughout the day. The day was a veritable cornucopia of fantastic ideas and projects packed with inspiration, case studies and strategies on how to engage learners through subject strands or across the curriculum which encourage them, as learners and global citizens and in their school community to look outwards and celebrate diversity, inclusion and acceptance with a discovery approach to global aspects of their curriculums. And in doing so; promoting tolerance, kindness, equality and a global mindset, whilst finding solutions to the Global Goals for Sustainable Development.

The Council for Subject Associations and the British Council gave all attendees the opportunity to engage, participate, listen, think and be inspired so that upon returning to their own educational establishments attendees would feel reinvigorated but armed with a range of ways to make a real difference to all students therein. Curriculum development would take place and will encourage communities to become more outward focused far beyond current shores and borders to inspire learners to be sustainable inhabitants of the planet. Our students clearly want change on a global scale showing us every Friday through peaceful protests in city streets. It is now our responsibility as educators to respond to the challenge and meet the needs through the sustainable and robust developments of a truly global curriculum, harnessing all that is good, providing deep and meaningful learning experiences which prepare students for life beyond school and our educational establishments.

Welcome address:

Liz Neil – Senior Consultant, British Council

Alan Kinder – Chief Executive, The Geographical Association

Prof Andy Connell – Chair of the Council for Subject Associations

Keynote Presentations:

What is at the heart of global learning and why it is important

Rob Ford, Director Heritage International School, Moldova

How Global Learning underpins the primary curriculum and supports inclusion and achievement

Naheeda Maharasingam, Headteacher of Rathfern Primary School, Lewisham

The intersections between subject content, methods and pedagogy with global learning

Dr John Hopkin, Head of Accreditation, the Geographical Association

Global Learning in a Global Context: Response to the challenges of globalisation

Prof Douglas Bourn, Co-Director of the Development Education Research Centre, University College London

Panel discussion:

Gender – Whole School Approach to Challenging Gender Stereotypes

Catarina Lamacchia, Centre for Research and Evaluation in Muslim Education, UCL

Human Rights – Issues in Diversity and Equality

Zoe Baker, Association for Citizenship Teaching

Sustainability – Issues for Teaching and Learning in Maths

Dr Pete Wright and Dr Suman Ghosh, UCL Institute of Education

Keynote Presentations:

The recent experience of the Design and Technology Association in incorporating sustainability in CPD

Richard Green, Consultant and former CEO of the Design and Technology Association

Learning for Sustainability – A whole setting approach

Kirsten Leask, Learning for Sustainability Scotland, University of Edinburgh

Using technology tools for global learning: How both digital citizenship and literacy can be fostered with responsible use of technology tools and digital resources

Opportunities provided digital tools to support teacher updating and professional development

Prof Christina Preston, De Montford University

John Sibbald, Education Consultant

Prof Marilyn Leask, De Montford University

The day closed with an interpretation of global learning and sustainability from young performing arts specialists from CAPA College.