



Kent Association of Leaders in Education Conference 2024

21st November 2024
Ashford International
Hotel



Connected Leaders: Inspiring Change

#KALEConference2024

info@kale-connect.org.uk



www.kale-connect.org.uk



@KALeadersinEd



[kent-leaders-in-education](https://www.linkedin.com/company/kent-leaders-in-education)



Our Objectives & Programme

- To inspire, uplift and energise education leaders across Kent
- To generate a sense of community and foster supportive professional relationships and friendships
- To explore shared issues relating to leadership and meeting the learning and personal development needs of all students and staff through an inclusive curriculum

08.15 Arrival, breakfast roll, registration and exhibition

09.00 Welcome and celebration of Kent Education Leaders – Ashley Crittenden

09.20 Rachel Johnson – PiXL CEO

10.00 Elly Chapple – Hope, Inclusion and Disability

10.40 Lee Selby – Regional Director for South East, Ofsted

11.10 Refreshments, networking and exhibition

11.35 WORKSHOPS

12.45 Meet your Area – Sharing in Area Groups

13.10 Lunch, networking, exhibition, register for prize draw

14.15 Coffee in the exhibition space and networking opportunity

14.40 Welcome to the afternoon session

14.45 Mrs Smith – See Me!

15.10 James Nottingham – Creator of the Learning Pit

15.50 Jo Salter MBE – First female fast jet fighter pilot

16.30 Reflections, thanks and prize draw

Read more about our keynote speakers and workshop facilitators at www.kale-connect.org.uk/annual-conference

18.30 Evening dinner with music and dancing, with Matt Brooks



This year our focus will be on Inspiring Change. We recognise there are many changes taking place across the education sector and more broadly. At this conference we will explore how leaders can successfully navigate these changes, inspire others and stay true to their moral purpose. These are challenging and uncertain times for anyone in a leadership role and particularly for educational leaders who work at the heart of communities, touching the lives of children and families on a daily basis. We will be considering how education leaders can thrive in such a changing and demanding leadership role.

Our aim is that every leader leaves this day feeling energised, equipped and part of strong community of Kent education leaders.

Our keynote speakers will include national and international educational leaders, experts from other sectors with like challenges and personalities with their own personal stories of life changing experiences.

We are very grateful to the **KALE Conference Planning Group** for their energy and drive in planning this conference. For more information about any aspect of the event please contact info@kale-connect.org.uk

Meet our 2024 Keynote Speakers



Rachel Johnson

Rachel Johnson has been the CEO of PiXL since the start of 2020, leading the network of 2500 schools from every area of education. The aim is to work with school leaders to improve the life chances and outcomes of young people, an aim that Rachel is passionate about and totally committed to. She is the writer and host of two podcasts, PiXL Pearls and The PiXL Leadership Bookclub, both designed to encourage, support and challenge school leaders in their thinking and to help find practical ideas that make a difference – have a listen wherever you enjoy your podcasts.

[Read Rachel's full biography](#)

Meet our 2024 Keynote Speakers



Elly Chapple

Elly is a speaker on Hope, Inclusion, Disability/SEND and Leadership. Elly is also the founder of #FlipTheNarrative; aiming to challenge stereotypes and foster a sense of authentic belonging and inclusion.

With over ten years of experience as a writer and a trainer, Elly has developed strong skills in leadership, teamwork, and communication.

[Read Elly's full biography.](#)

Meet our 2024 Keynote Speakers



Lee Selby

Lee Selby is a Senior His Majesty's Inspector and Ofsted's Assistant Regional Director for the South-East. He has operational responsibility for all inspection work in schools and Further Education and Skills in the region.

Lee has extensive experience inspecting primary, secondary, special and independent schools. He is a qualified teacher with experience in the primary phase including early years. Lee has held leadership positions in four primary schools in Kent and was most recently headteacher of a rural primary school and chaired an alliance of rural schools that included primary, secondary and special schools. He was previously commissioned to support headteachers and schools in challenging circumstances and facilitated national leadership programmes.

Meet our 2024 Keynote Speakers



James Nottingham

James Nottingham is the creator of the Learning Pit, one of the most widely used models for teaching to emerge in the last 20 years. He is also the author of 12 books, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, and is listed in The Future 500, a 'definitive list of the UK's most forward thinking and creative innovators'.

[Read James' full biography.](#)

Meet our 2024 Keynote Speakers



Mrs Smith

Ever wondered what your teacher was thinking?

Let Facebook's Mrs Smith enlighten you!

Mrs Smith was an ordinary teacher in an ordinary school until she went viral on Facebook and accidentally became a stand-up comedian. Her wit and insights into daily school life, politics, socks, swearing, the side effects of a full moon and more inspired the sell-out show Mrs Smith – See Me which debuted at the 2023 Edinburgh Fringe.

Child 1. "I've got 20 subscribers to my YouTube channel."

Child 2. "Yeh, so, my cousin's got 36 subscribers on Twitch."

Child 3. "My sister got almost 50 views on her dance TikTok."

Mrs Smith shakes her head and walks away. Is that it??? You have no idea, she mutters to herself. No idea at all.

Mrs Smith is 10 away from 73,000 followers. Year 6 would be soooooo annoyed if they knew.

@mrssmithsaysit

Meet our 2024 Keynote Speakers



Jo Salter

Dr Jo Salter MBE is famed for becoming the first female fast jet pilot, having flown the Panavia Tornado ground attack aircraft during her services in the Royal Air Force. Joining the RAF aged 18, Jo has since taken Air Cadets into the skies as part of Air Experience Flights, become the Director of Global Transformative Leadership for PwC, and most recently become a Global Advisory of GenAI for PwC. Having developed first-class expertise in leadership, analytical thinking and performing under pressure, Jo is now a highly sought-after public speaker to share stories from her time in the skies.

[Read Jo's full biography.](#)

[You can also listen to Jo when she was interviewed by BBC, speaking of her own experience as a female fast jet fighter pilot.](#)

Meet our 2024 Workshop Speakers



Alex Atherton

Alex Atherton is an experienced educator and leadership coach. He worked in education for 25 years, and spent over half of it as a secondary school headteacher in large inner-London comprehensives.

He is the former headteacher who heard the word 'snowflake' once too often to describe his former students.

Alex spent over a decade immersed in the mindset of this misunderstood generation, getting to the core of what makes them tick.

He blends his experiences, research, and a hefty dose of reality to shatter the myths around Gen Z. He equips leaders and managers with proven strategies to overcome generational divides and effectively recruit, develop, and retain top young talent.

[Read Alex's workshop description and watch a short video of Alex introducing himself and explain a little about the workshop he delivered.](#)

Meet our 2024 Workshop Speakers



Jeremy Indika

Jeremy Indika was sexually abused by a 35-year-old man for two years when he was 8- years old. After a successful career designing supercars for McLaren, he decided to speak out for the first time when he was 27. He quickly noticed how fearful everyone was when talking about this. No-one knew where to look or what to say. Then, he began approaching schools to tell his story and saw that unlike other real-life stories related to subjects like county lines and drug use, schools held a great deal more anxiety around this particular topic, leading them to avoid it. So, using his engineering skill, he came up with a solution. Come and see what he has to say at his workshop.

Workshop Title: An action plan to better protect schools from sexual abuse

Whether it be online, in-person, already happened, happening right now or will happen to them in the future, the sexual abuse of your students is inescapable. The sooner we accept that, the better. So what are we going to do about it? Well, I can tell you one thing for sure, relying solely on your once-a-year safeguarding training for staff will set you up for a guaranteed failure – trust me on this. In this workshop I will be presenting a three-pronged approach that I've developed and will be helping you avoid a catastrophe like we saw last week, where a 12-year-old girl took her own life after being groomed online. I'm bringing a brand-new way of discussing this to the table. Don't miss it. Your students and staff are relying on you for it.

Meet our 2024 Workshop Speakers



Carly Bryant

Back by popular demand.

Carly Bryant enjoyed a 10+ year career as a touring singer/musician playing major festivals, theatres and occasional stadiums all over the world. In 2019 she set up a network of rock/pop/soul choirs in Kent – Marsh Choir – which now has some 400 members including honorary member and patron Dame Joanna Lumley (!) Carly's passion for singing is tangible and she believes everybody has a voice. Carly says 'Singing in a group is an incredibly affirming experience, which can unite a group of people within minutes, so if you have never tried singing in a group, now's the time.'

Workshop Title: Singing for Wellbeing

Join this workshop to feel the immediate benefits of singing in a group.

Singing can improve breathing, posture, and muscle tension and improve mood by releasing positive neurochemicals which reduce stress. Singing in a group is particularly beneficial in boosting confidence and creating an immediate sense of connection. In this practical wellbeing workshop you will learn a popular song, form an impromptu choir and take part in a performance.

Meet our 2024 Workshop Speakers



Elly Chapple

Speaker on Hope, Inclusion, Disability/SEND and Leadership #flipthenarrative
Elly always been fascinated with human communication and behaviour, both verbal and non-verbal.

Workshop Title: We can talk about being SEN, we can talk about inclusion BUT what we really need to talk about is being human

This is an opportunity to delve a little deeper into Elly's unique view of what it means to be truly inclusive. You will be able to ask your questions following her keynote presentation and work with other education leaders in small groups to explore challenges and options. Elly will also lead a hopeful activity to promote fresh thinking and to 'open up' new approaches. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear from a truly passionate advocate for inclusive education. Over the past five years Elly has developed a unique approach thanks to her greatest teacher – her phenomenal eldest daughter. She now employs and manages an extraordinary 'A Team' of Intervenors and an 'out of the box' approach for education.

[Read Elly's full biography and workshop description](#)

Meet our 2024 Workshop Speakers



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Exhibitors

For our conference, we carefully select a group of organisations who have been invited to be part of our exhibition.

This year, KALE were pleased to welcome;-



Place2Be - Place2Be is the leading children's mental health charity providing expert school-based support. Their services improve the emotional wellbeing and mental health of pupils, and support families, teachers and school staff too. The charity currently works with 650 primary and secondary schools to provide mental health services, reaching a school community of over 350,000 children and young people.

Smart Curriculum - **SMARTcurriculum** Ltd is a specialist education services provider with particular focus on curriculum design and implementation, leadership development, and school improvement strategies.



SMARTcurriculum
Achieve the exceptional

Working with schools, local authorities, diocesan education boards, groups and federations, across all phases and types, we deliver Mastery programmes, Analytics, School Standards, and Scheduling. SMARTcurriculum Analytics is our powerful online tool for analysing and planning curriculum and staffing models, using Integrated Curriculum and Finance Planning principles. We are a registered Financial Advisor for Schools.

We are passionate about empowering leaders to achieve the exceptional, transforming the life chances of every learner. What can we help you achieve?



NAHT - NAHT are a voice of school leaders. Alongside our members, we work to create a better education system for both educationalists and students alike. We represent school leaders working within a number of different areas of

the education sector, and our members include head teachers, deputy and assistant heads, school business leaders, special educational needs coordinators, virtual school heads and leaders of outdoor education centres.

Exhibitors

LLSE – Securing Excellence in Teaching and Leadership

LLSE is a not-for-profit organisation committed to working in partnership with schools and colleges to secure excellence in teaching and leadership. We are highly collaborative and committed to creating a culture of continuous improvement to ensure the highest quality of professional development.



LLSE has been funded and approved by the Department for Education as a provider of NPQs since 2011. Working initially from our base in the South East, we now provide NPQs across England and internationally in partnership with a diverse and expert network of delivery partners.

All our programmes are designed with and facilitated by experienced leaders, whose expertise ensures that the learning is relevant, up-to-date and contextualised to the needs of teachers and leaders in a range of specific localities, organisations, types of schools, phases and roles.



Kitt Medical – As seen on Dragon's Den, Kitt Medical's multi-award winning Anaphylaxis Kitt service is just like a defibrillator, but for allergies. They provide UK schools & qualifying businesses with emergency adrenaline pens, online CPD-accredited training, and incident reporting, all in one convenient annual subscription.

Having only launched early 2023 by Zak who lives with severe nut allergies, they now support over 400 organisations across the UK, and their Kitts have been used multiple times in life-threatening scenarios. Their goal is to become every defibrillator's next door-neighbour, creating a new standard for allergy care.

School of Noise – The School of Noise specialise in delivering fun and educational workshops exploring the science of sound and music making. Whether it is helping to launch a topic or consolidate learning afterwards, our workshops can help bring sound to life through hands-on play and experimentation.



Exhibitors



Challenger Troop – We are one of the UK's leading providers of youth and young persons engagement programmes with a military ethos for primary and secondary schools, academies, sixth-form colleges, further education colleges, PRUs and community partners.

Through our unique programmes, which have been endorsed by the Department for Education, we enable each participant to fulfil their academic potential; by developing each individual's personal, learning and employability skills to help them become confident individuals, effective contributors in class, successful learners and responsible citizens.

Mental Health Hub – Mental Health Hub is an ever-evolving, collaborative platform built to help schools implement the DfE's 8 key principles for a whole school approach to mental health and wellbeing.



Mental Health Hub

Our mission has been to create a one-stop-shop that hosts a comprehensive range of practical tools and resources to help schools and colleges quickly assess and identify which products most closely meet their specific needs. We collaborate with industry leaders to ensure best practice and that you have freedom to choose your products.

KMT

QUALITY
TEACHER
TRAINING

KMT is an accredited provider of school based teacher training in the South East and across Kent.

At KMT we'll support you on your journey. You'll train to teach in one of our partner schools, spending as much time as possible in the classroom with an experienced practitioner as your mentor.

As an English Hub our aim is to support schools to achieve excellence in early literacy teaching through an initial focus on:

- Developing early language and closing the word gap
- Developing early reading through systematic, synthetic phonics (SSP)
- Promoting a love of reading

English Hubs
Kingsnorth English Hub

2024 Feedback



The above wordcloud has been created using the KALE Conference 2024 Feedback Form in response to being asked to describe their conference experience in three words.

Some additional testimonials from some of our conference delegates;

"There wasn't just one highlight, all the speakers were thought provoking "

"The chance to network with colleagues plus experience other peoples opinions and views on current topic"

"The conference was really good but having an extended lunch break was really useful. It was so lovely to be able to sit down and eat with colleagues and not be interrupted."

"I thought this was the best conference for many a year. The right mix of speakers, not political but inspiring and thought provoking. Well done organisers!"

"It is the highlight of my year. Something for me as a school leader and an opportunity to mix with other leaders that I don't see on a regular basis."

"Opportunity to network with those within and beyond my Trust. "

"Many thanks for all of your hard work in putting this together - it was a great opportunity to step away from my school and look at the bigger picture."

"Thank you to everyone who helped the conference's organisation. I look forward to it every year for lots of different reasons."

See you in 2025!