

# Speakers

## 1. James Maughan

James spent 25 years in many countries with global multinationals like GE and UBS and is now an advisor to governments on educational issues. He is a graduate of Cambridge University and INSEAD business school and is a staunch advocate of lifelong learning to ensure people have dynamic careers and employers have the skilled workforce they need.

**Title of talk:**

Paradox and pain in education

**Outline of talk:**

There are loud calls for change in education, including from employers. But it's hard to address the points of pain. James discusses this paradox and how small steps can lead to major change. For example, how technology in educational publishing can engage students to learn from each other, save time for teachers, even inspire reading for pleasure. He also identifies points of resistance in the educational system and how to overcome them, especially in MBA education.

## 2. Andrew Nolan

Andrew has been a teacher for over 10 years, with 7 years' experience in the UAE. He has a drive and passion for integrating ICT into learning, and has been recognised twice by Microsoft as one of the UAE's most innovative teachers - representing his host nation twice at continental level. He currently holds the position of leader for GEMS 'Innovation using ICT' Network, and is committed to enhancing digital innovation and engagement across the company.

**Title of Talk:**

From the 3 Rs to the 6 Cs: Education in the Information Age.

**Outline:**

Andrew will discuss the changes in education that have been enabled by the advent of the information age. He will touch on aspects such as the rise of social media and gaming technologies and their relevance to the learner, as well as describing the change in the teacher's role.

### **3. Daniel Adkins**

Dan spent twenty years in the information technology industry as a process expert for numerous Fortune 500 companies. He has been working as a teacher and leader in education for the past 6 years and is currently Associate Dean of Murdoch University's Dubai Campus.

#### **Title of Talk:**

A new concept in tertiary education

#### **Outline of Talk:**

There is a significant skill set difference between research and teaching. Universities should recognise this difference and allow researchers to research and teachers to teach

### **4. Jason McBride**

Jason is an international school leader who believes in the ability of educators to facilitate the future of education now. Having been a part of schools in Canada, Mexico, England and the UAE, his doctoral work focuses on the international teacher induction process as he aims to minimize transition time in order to maximize student learning.

#### **Title of Talk:**

Pulling the Future into the Present

#### **Outline:**

Preparing students for a future that does not yet exist can seem intimidating, but the reality is that a quality 21<sup>st</sup> century education is closer than we think. Focusing on the skills and attributes that are required to be successful in the century ahead, the talk challenges us to pull the future into the present by centring on how close we are instead of the barriers that exist.

### 5. Isobel Abulhoul

Isobel Abulhoul has lived in Dubai since 1968. A lifetime of passion and involvement with books led to her founding the Emirates Airline Festival of Literature in 2008. Isobel was awarded the Cultural Personality of the Year by Dr. HH Sheikh Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, the Ruler of Sharjah in 2010 and an OBE by HM Queen Elizabeth of Great Britain in 2012, receiving official recognition of her tireless campaign to improve literacy and a love of books, particularly for children.

**Title of Talk:**

Why Reading Matters

### 6. Phil Redhead

Phil's passion lies in empowering young and old alike to utilize learning technologies, together with their human interaction skills, to make the world a better place. He is a regular speaker at education events worldwide, most recently presenting at the USAID Learning Symposium in Washington DC. He instigated the first large scale deployment of iPads in a Dubai school and oversaw the first local research projects aim at assessing their impact on learning. Phil also co-developed and implemented the region's first school smartphone application.

**Title of Talk:**

Say what? How our mastery of communication will make or break the human race.

**Outline of Talk:**

Phil considers the current state of global communication and the key role of teachers and policy-makers in effecting the urgent shift needed for human beings to understand each other better, leading to a more peaceful and prosperous co-existence of cultures. Modern communication technologies provide the opportunity for the human race to become one - in short, to save ourselves from extinction.

## 7. Rohan Roberts

Rohan Roberts graduated with a Master's degree in Literature from the University of Leeds. He is currently Head of Professional Development and part of the Senior Leadership team at the Winchester School, Dubai. He is a CIE certified programme leader for the Cambridge International Certificate for Teachers and Trainers and heads the school's ICT and Innovation group for teachers. He also teaches A Level Literature. He has organised a TEDGlobal Live event in the past and is currently the organiser of the TEDxYouth@Winchester and TEDxWinchesterTeachers events. He believes passionately in making education fun and leads the school's Astronomy Club, Science Club, and Film Club.

### **Title of Talk:**

Bringing a cosmic perspective into the classroom

### **Outline of Talk:**

We now have all the tools necessary to create infinite knowledge. We are at the threshold of transcending our biological and technological limitations. In a world where exponential growth in Genetics, Nanotechnology, Robotics, Computing, and Neuroscience will radically and unalterably change everything as we know it, Rohan's talk considers the importance of seeing humanity's place in the grand scheme of things and elaborates on what we need to do to move students from being global citizens to becoming cosmic citizens.

## 8. Tony Potts

Tony Potts is currently PreK-12 ICT Coordinator and PYP ICT teacher at GEMS World Academy, Dubai. He graduated from the College of St Mark & St John and started his teaching career in England before making the move to international teaching at International School Manila before moving to GWA. This is his 14<sup>th</sup> year in primary education. He is really looking forward to sharing his enthusiasm for technology and, in particular, using Web2.0 tools of the future to help improve and celebrate student learning within an inquiry based program.

### **Title of Talk:**

Teaching Tomorrow's Children

### **Outline of Talk:**

The challenges of preparing today's children for tomorrow's world concern leaders, teachers, and parents alike. One thing is for certain: technology will play an integral role in supporting and shaping education and most professions will depend on it. How can we get students ready for the unknown? How can we use web2.0 tools to support learning? How can we harness the possibilities of technology in an ever-evolving world?

### 9. Glenda Clark

Glenda Clark has been teaching for 23 years, moving from RE teacher to Head of Department, Curriculum Leader for RE and PSHE, Lead Teacher for Southend, SACRE member, learning coach, curriculum innovator with the Culham Institute workshops, exam marker, Head of Humanities to Head of Teaching and Learning and Facilitator for GEMS.

#### **Title of Talk:**

Facing the future: Are you prepared?

#### **Outline of Talk:**

Having worked as a teacher of Religious Education for 18 years in the UK, the move to Dubai meant a complete evaluation of what Glenda could contribute to the world of education. Being up to the challenge of change, thinking about the hows of learning, flexibility and creativity were all imperative; but learning from the past was also essential. So, where is the future of education heading and are we prepared to embrace it?

### 10. Rehab Ragab

Rehab Ragab has been involved in professional development activities for teachers in the UAE through her work with TESOL Arabia Organisation for the past seven years. Currently she is the Vice-President/President-Elect of the Organization. She worked as an ESL teacher for twelve years before becoming a Technology Integration Senior Coordinator at The Institute of Applied Technology. She is passionate about sharing innovative teaching ideas and developing online learning communities. She is also an advocate of technology in the classroom and considers herself a lifelong learner. Rehab graduated with an MA in Educational Technology from Michigan State University in 2010.

#### **Title of Talk:**

Building online Professional Learning Networks

#### **Outline of Talk:**

With knowledge being constantly redefined due to the Internet revolution, it is now mandatory for educators to develop mechanisms to keep up. As a result of current cuts in professional development budgets, this task becomes a true challenge that teachers have to face on a daily basis as schools integrate new technologies that require changes in pedagogy. Rehab's talk will focus on the presenter's own journey of personalising her professional development on a shoe-string by building a Personal Learning Network online.

### **11. Carol Pinto**

Carol is a seasoned business professional who has headed marketing and operational activities for several years now. Her passion for continual learning and development has caused her to switch gears from corporate to academia. Presently, she is nurturing young talent at Murdoch University, Dubai.

#### **Title of Talk:**

Are we born to serve?

#### **Outline of Talk:**

In her talk, she defies conventional pedagogical methods and discusses how our youth need to be taught to think outside the box. She argues that the youth of today cannot sustain the world tomorrow, if classroom boundaries exist. To teach innovation and entrepreneurship, students must be liberated – they should not be ‘educated to serve’.

### **12. Lara Matossian-Roberts**

Lara Matossian-Roberts is passionate about the performing arts. She writes, acts, and directs for the stage and sings and dances on it too. Lara is a professional mime artist, is on the Dubai Drama Group committee and is the coordinator for the Emirates Airline Festival of Literature Fringe’s adult performances. She is the co-organiser of TEDxWinchesterTeachers.

#### **Title of Performance:**

Let students keep their wings

#### **Outline of Performance:**

Lara believes that there’s really nothing quite like being oneself. In fact, to her, it is the only way. She’d like to live in a world where students are allowed to define success for themselves; where they can live happy, fulfilled lives because they are doing what they love; where they are not confined to the current stagnant educational system and have to conform to its outdated methods.