E-ACT IDEAS

Assessment & Data Leaders Conference

Uniting Expertise:

The Power of Collective Intelligence

Host(s): E-ACT and Merrick-Ed **Brought to you by:** AWS and partners

Venue: AWS HQ LHR16, 1 Principal Pl, London EC2A 2FA

Date: Tuesday 1st July 2025

Time: 10:00-16:00 Networking drinks: 16:00-18:00

Who's this for?: School, MAT and college leaders of Assessment, Data and School Improvement

Uniting Expertise: The Power of Collective Intelligence

This one-day conference, is designed for Data, Assessment and School Improvement Leaders from UK schools, multi-academy trusts, and colleges. It champions the idea that shared knowledge and collaborative practice are essential for maximizing the impact of data and assessment. The conference will explore how harnessing the collective intelligence of education professionals can drive school improvement, featuring leading voices discussing cutting-edge themes around AI, Assessment, Curriculum, and School Improvement. "Uniting Expertise" will also showcase emerging talent and practical innovations from practitioners, providing delegates with the knowledge, strategies, and connections to foster collaboration, break down silos, and leverage data and assessment for impactful school improvement.

Unlocking the power of shared knowledge to drive school improvement.

Values: for the design of the symposium and invitation to speakers

- **Collective growth:**
  We are all on a learning journey, growing together by sharing our experiences and valuing diverse perspectives.
- **Exploration, nor perfection:**
  We encourage experimentation and learning from both successes and challenges, recognising there's no single perfect solution.
- **Collaboration as a catalyst:**
  We believe in the power of working together, sharing expertise, engaging in open dialogue, and valuing all voices to achieve more.

Conference overview:

Morning Session:
Exploring the Power of Collective Intelligence

Afternoon Session:
Deliberately Coherent: Curriculum, Assessment and Data

Refreshments & Networking

Agenda

9:30 - 10:00	**Arrival, Registration & Refreshments**
10:00 - 10:30	**Welcome and opening remarks** Lord Jim Knight, Chair of the Board of Trustees, E-ACT

Welcome address emphasizing the power of collective intelligence in education and setting the stage for the day's exploration of data and assessment coherence and collaborative practice.

10:30 - 11:15	**Keynote 1:** Fostering a collaborative partnership between humans and machines, Laura Knight, Founder of Sapio & Consultant with EDT & Partners (speaker tbc), AWS

A leading expert explores how AI can augment, not replace, human expertise in assessment, analysis and school improvement, focusing on collaborative partnerships between humans and machines.

11:15 - 11.30	**Break**
11:30-11:50	**Spotlight 1:** Collaboration not competition - learning from the North East Laura Mellis, Director of Information Strategy, Advanced Learning Partnership and Data Sub Group Chair, North of England Schools & Academies Forum (NESAF)

A practitioner-led presentation showcasing how schools in the North East of England are working together in matters of data leadership, including practical examples and actionable strategies.

11:50 - 12.15	**Round Table:** Reflective conversations: now and next for data leadership maturity Rob Wall, Co-Founder, Data Leaders Collective Tina Manning, Co-Founder, Data Leaders Collective

A facilitated interactive round table discussion and feedback session exploring some poignant sector-relevant questions.

12:15 – 13.00	**Lunch & Networking**
13.00 - 13:45	**Keynote 2:** Data-informed decisions - making the case for curriculum & assessment alignment Josh Perry, Co-Founder, Smartgrade

An expert-led presentation exploring culture of shared data analysis and collaborative curriculum development, highlighting practical examples and actionable strategies.

13:45-14:15	**Reflections and provocations** Peter Kirkbride, National Director of Secondaries, E-ACT
14:15 – 14.40	**Spotlight 2:** Creating a Unified Data and Assessment Strategy for Whole-School improvement Ben Dobbs, Director of Technology and Insights, Archway Learning Trust

A practitioner-led presentation showcasing an impactful unified approach to Data and Assessment Strategy across an East Midlands MAT.

14:40 – 14:55	**Break**
14:55 – 15.40	**Panel Discussion: Data & Assessment as a collective endeavour** Victoria Merrick, Merrick-Ed Limited (Chair) Laura Steward, Account Director, Baltic Apprenticeships Leah Morgan, Director of Education, Cygnus Academies Trust representative from E-ACT, representative from GLF Schools, Khushboo Longhurst, Head of Data and Business Intelligence,

A thought-provoking discussion on the potential of collaborative assessment design practices and methodologies, hearing from education leaders from across the UK. Sharing practical tips and strategies for fostering collaboration, distributed leadership, and shared ownership.

15:40 – 15:55	**Closing Remarks:** Tom Campbell, CEO, E-ACT

A brief summary of key takeaways from the conference and a call to action for delegates to build and participate in learning communities, sharing expertise and insights. Invitation to join for further networking and informal discussion.

16:00 – 18:00	**Drinks Reception** Namrata Das, Enterprise Account Manager, AWS