



# Presents

## Dubai Lead Meet

Tuesday 27th February 2018

5pm-6.45pm

VIP Leadership Stream Room,  
Dubai World Trade Centre

Sponsored by:  
GESS Education



#SPARKEvent



**Rachael Edgar-Host**  
**Latifa School for Girls**  
**Lead co-ordinator SPARK**

Rachael's career in education spans over 18 years and includes posts in schools, both in the UK and the UAE. She has held a variety of leadership roles relating to teaching and learning. Currently, Rachael has the privilege of working for the Senior Leadership team at Latifa School for Girls in Dubai and is responsible for academic provision.

Passionate about PD and using educational research to drive forward school improvement, Rachael is interested in promoting cross institution pedagogic collaboration and developing innovative ways to support educators in improving their teaching practice.

It was social media that first brought Rachael to SPARK in 2013 and she took over the role of lead co-ordinator in September 2014. In the last five years SPARK have held over 25 large Teach Meets at schools across the Middle East, to include events in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah, Al Ain, Doha and Bahrain. SPARK continues to thrive and grow in popularity amongst the teaching community and there are several additional events in the pipeline for this academic year. Leading SPARK has meant Rachael is constantly in awe of the generosity of other educators and willingness to share their ideas. She is delighted to be hosting her third leadership focused event at GESS.

[@Dubai\\_Teachmeet](#) [@SPARKEducators](#) [@LatifaLearn](#)  
[Rachael@sparkevent.me](mailto:Rachael@sparkevent.me) | [www.Dubai-Teachmeet.com](http://www.Dubai-Teachmeet.com)



**Nicola Lambros**  
**King's College, Madrid**  
**Deputy Head (Whole school)**

An experienced senior leader in education, Nicola is currently the Deputy Head in a large international British school in Madrid where she oversees the day to day running of the primary and secondary school. Previous to this Nicola established a Secondary School in an International School in Kuala Lumpur and has held other leadership positions within both International and UK schools. Nicola regularly runs workshops for educators and has presented at a number of international schools conferences including COBIS and AISC to support schools in their quest to ensure every student realises their full potential, both through building a culture that nurtures self and collective efficacy and the effective use of data.



**Ian Thurston**  
**Jumeirah English Speaking School**  
**Deputy Head (KS5 and Pastoral)**

Ian is an experienced Deputy Head Teacher with a demonstrated history of outstanding leadership in education. Highly skilled in pastoral care and safeguarding, the IB Diploma and global university placements, he has spent over 10 years working at JESS Dubai in a variety of roles. In the last 5 years, he has worked to develop Pastoral & Safeguarding policies, as well as the Sixth Form to ensure students are safe, given the best opportunities and are prepared for life & the workplace.

[@IanThurston\\_Edu](#)  
[www.jess.sch.ae](http://www.jess.sch.ae)



**Dee Saran**  
**Dubai College**  
**Deputy Head (Learning and Teaching)**

Dee Saran is the Deputy Head Learning and Teaching at Dubai College. She studied Geography and Economics at University College London. She is a learner that loves learning, she thrives on pushing creative boundaries, and is a leader who drives change with emotional intelligence and rigour. She has had articles about Collaborative Learning and Thinking about Thinking published in the then NSIN Research Matters at the IOE. Dee is passionate about creating opportunities for collaboration and support, she worked across the UK. This drive in supporting school improvement and cross cultivation has continued in Dubai where Dee has led a series of free workshops for local schools about learning and teaching, the College has also begun to create a number of links with Universities and other CPD providers to provide a host of innovative opportunities for staff across the Middle Eastern region. Her passion in developing innovative teaching, leadership pathways, research and quality CPD has driven the vision for Dubai College's Center of Innovation in Learning and Teaching. Meaning that Dubai College will continue to consolidate its reputation as a hub that will create professional learning opportunities that both support and inspire.

[@Dee\\_Saran](#) [@DCol\\_Learning](#)  
[www.dubaicollege.org](http://www.dubaicollege.org)



**Dr. Carol Webb**  
**Middlesex University**  
**HE Lecturer in MA Educational Leadership & Management**

HE Lecturer in MA Educational Leadership & Management  
Dr Webb obtained her PhD in management learning in 2006 from Cranfield University and is currently an HE lecturer in MA Educational Leadership & Management at Middlesex University Dubai. She has worked in education as a teacher in a variety of roles and at a variety of levels since 1996. This has brought her a significant breadth and depth of knowledge and experience in both adult and secondary education in a wide range of national and international settings, including: HE, FE, government funded training establishments, offender learning environments, LA/academy status secondary schools, and a private, independent international all through school. Now in her 10<sup>th</sup> year of HE experience, Dr Webb has more than 6 years of experience as an active researcher and by the end of this academic year will have supervised the completion of more than 30 masters level dissertations. She has also lectured on undergraduate, masters, and MBA courses, and led many PhD level workshops and contributed to PhD level supervision activities having had the benefit of PhD supervision training.

[@DrCWebbBAphD](#)  
[www.carolslearningcurve.com](http://www.carolslearningcurve.com)



**Kate Jones**  
**Brighton College**  
**Subject Leader History**

Head of History and Lead Practitioner at Brighton College Al Ain. Author of 'Love to Teach: Sharing Teaching and Learning ideas for every classroom'.

[@87History](#)  
[www.Lovetoteach87.com](http://www.Lovetoteach87.com)



**Luke Rees**  
**Jumeirah English Speaking School**  
**Assistant Head**

Luke Rees is Assistant Head at JESS Dubai where he has worked for the last 7 years. A strong strategic planner, Luke contributes to the school by leading on safeguarding, curriculum, pupil leadership, IT strategy, moral education, pupil progress, assessment & reporting. A BSO school inspector and 2 senior leadership roles ensure a well-rounded view of contributing factors that lead to outstanding academic and pastoral outcomes. Winner of 'best use of ICT' award at GESS and chairman of JESS IT user group.

[@LukeReesEdu](#)  
[www.jess.sch.ae](http://www.jess.sch.ae)



**Baldish Nijjar**  
**Jumeirah College**  
**Innovation leader & GEMs Tellal IT Computing Network Leader**

Baldish is currently the 'Innovation Leader' at Jumeirah College, and the GEMS Tellal 'Computing, ICT and Digital learning' network leader for the UAE. Baldish gained recognition for his innovative approach to solving staff and student needs, and has embedded whole school solutions (both technology and none technology based) in each of the schools he has worked in, as well as the schools he has supported through CPD. He is an advocate for promoting digital tools that reduce teacher workload and improve impact on students. Baldish is also the co-founder of the 'Drones for Education' initiative, which will allow all students to access real world, current and future work skills, along with curriculum subject knowledge. Baldish believes that education should fit in with real world and business needs, and is always looking for ways to incorporate those with exam board specifications on an international level. Baldish's educational background includes a BSc in Computer Studies and MSc in Management.

[@MrNijjar](#)  
[www.gemsjc.com](http://www.gemsjc.com)



**Jeremy Williams**  
**Manor Hall International School**  
**Headteacher**

Mr. Jeremy Williams is the Head of School for Manor Hall International School in Al Ain. His career began in the United States as a middle school math teacher where he focused on using a constructivist and inquiry approach toward learning. He then served as an Assistant Principal, Principal, and Superintendent. Originally from Indiana, USA, Jeremy completed his undergraduate degree in Elementary Education and Middle School Mathematics at Indiana University. Jeremy also completed his master's degree in Education and Administration at Indiana Wesleyan University. Currently, Jeremy is completing his Ph.D in Organizational Leadership at Indiana Wesleyan University with a focus on transformational leadership and organizational commitment.

[@JWilliams0804](#)  
[www.manorhallschool.com](http://www.manorhallschool.com)



**James Roberts**  
**Innoventures Education**  
**Director of Standards**

James is Director of Standards at Innoventures Education. In this role, he works with the CEO and school leaders to drive forward the group's quality agenda and secure the highest quality education for every student. He is an experienced school leader and Principal who began his teaching career at inner city secondary schools in London, before moving to the Middle East in 2011. He has over 15 years of senior leadership experience in both outstanding and challenging schools, and was recently Interim Head of Secondary at Dubai International Academy – taking this leading IB school to Outstanding status in the 2015-16 DSIB inspection. As well as his degree in Biochemistry, James has a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership and Management, along with the National Professional Qualification for Headship. He utilises his knowledge, skills and experience to provide training and coaching to educators at all levels across the Innoventures Education group. He firmly believes in unlocking the potential of every child academically, personally and socially through a continuous and relentless drive for sustained improvement in the quality of education.

[www.innoventureseducation.com](http://www.innoventureseducation.com)



**Ben Rothwell**  
**Victory Heights**  
**Director of Technology and Innovation**

Ben graduated Canterbury Christ Church University with a BSc in Business Information Management, and then undertook a GTP leading to QTS status. He is passionate about the integration of technology throughout schools and how it can lead to transformational learning experiences. Before moving to Dubai, Ben worked at Kent College, Canterbury, a leading private school, as Head of ICT & Computing. Ben has also had experience working in an all-boys grammar school and a large secondary modern. Recently, a strategic initiative that Ben launched at VHPS - the VHPS University received critical acclaim, and led to the British International School Awards naming it as a finalist in the "Outstanding Strategic Initiative" award category.

[@VHPS\\_Innovation](#)  
[www.vhprimary.com](http://www.vhprimary.com)



**Stephanie Bernier**  
**Victoria International School Sharjah**  
**Director of Digital Learning**

Stephanie is the Director of Digital Learning at VISS, an Australian/IB K-12 school. She is also an Apple Education Trainer. She is a passionate educator who believes in raising standards through educational technology. Stephanie leads on training whole school staff on the appropriate use of VLEs, Google Apps, MS Office 365 and instructing on specific programs and applications suited to the various needs of educators and students on multiple platforms and devices. Stephanie has been an ICT mentor for teachers from the Ministry of Education here in UAE and Monash University in Australia. She enjoys creating, learning and sharing pedagogical approaches to Digital Technology with the aim of improving learner engagement and outcomes. The highlight of this past year for Stephanie was two-fold. She led her Robotics Team to 1<sup>st</sup> place at the World Educational Robotics Contest in Dubai and her team followed that up with achieving the 3<sup>rd</sup> prize in Shanghai, China at the international competition in November. Secondly, she was instrumental developing the new Innovation Centre at VISS, which focuses on robotics, VR, AR, innovation, STEM and STEAM for the school community. It has been an exciting year indeed!

[@steph\\_bernier01](#)  
[www.viss.ae](http://www.viss.ae)



**Dr. Tassos Anastasiades**  
**Ajman Academy**  
**General Director**

Dr. Tassos Anastasiades is currently the Director of Ajman Academy. His previous experience includes serving Principal of Dubai Gem Private School, Director of Quality Assurance at Innoventures Education and headships and school leadership positions in UK, Bahrain, China, Nigeria, Zambia, Malaysia and Cyprus

He has 35 years of experience in educational leadership which has involved monitoring of educational standards, quality assurance, developing bespoke leadership training across schools, preparation for KHDA inspections, monitoring of the quality of teaching and learning, providing professional development across the group and working closely with schools development targets including personalised appraisal systems and school policy development. He has also worked closely with IBO, CIS and OFSTED/ KHDA in ensuring the highest of educational standards, and in particular leading the accreditation / re accreditation by CIS of all schools. Leadership of progress and attainment tracking with a focus on all students making above expected progress through quality teaching interventions is one of his key targets

**@AjmanAcademy**  
**[www.ajmanacademy.com](http://www.ajmanacademy.com)**



## Running order

4.30pm- Sign in and networking- marketing suite

5pm- Introductions Rachael Edgar

5pm- Presentations first half

Data for leadership: effective use of CAT4- Nicola Lambros

Building a sustainable leadership team- James Roberts

Empowering students- Tassos Anastasiades

Professional Development- Ben Rothwell

Tech tools for reducing workload- Baldish Nijjar

Focus on distributed leadership—Carol Webb

6pm- 6.15pm Break/Networking opportunity

6.15pm- Presentations second half

Learning and Teaching- Dee Saran

Learning from leaders- Kate Jones

Visible learning- Stephanie Bernier

Blockchain in education- Jeremy Williams

Developing school community through student leadership- Luke Rees

7pm onwards- You are invited to continue your discussions and further explore presentation topics with the SPARK team in the marketing suite.

Sign up to host or attend a SPARK event: [www.sparkevent.me](http://www.sparkevent.me)

Contact: [rachael@sparkevent.me](mailto:rachael@sparkevent.me)