



Independent
Association of
Prep Schools



**Pre-prep & early years
conference:** for Pre-prep heads,
early years and key stage one
leaders

Reach for the stars

10 – 11 March 2022

Chesford Grange Hotel, Warwickshire CV8 2LD

Reach for the stars

We are supremely proud of what we have achieved for our children in our schools, over the past 20 months or more of this unprecedented pandemic. The challenges we have faced have been unimaginable, but it is our courage, adaptability and committed resolve that have been demonstrated. We have broken through barriers, and emerged with ambition, 'reaching for the stars'.

The 2022 conference will provide Pre-prep and early years leaders long-awaited opportunities to reconnect with colleagues. A group of dynamic keynote speakers and seminar leaders will focus on **Relationships, Engagement, Achievement, Confidence and Hope**. They will challenge delegates, kindle debate and inspire further innovation and ingenuity.

Leaders will return to school, ensuring every child in their care has the mechanisms to realise their potential; whilst they are our children of today, they will be our leaders of tomorrow.

We look forward to welcoming you to the conference.

Katie Paynter and Gill Emmerson
Conference directors

Programme: Thursday 10 March

0900 onwards	Registration, refreshments and exhibition
1000	First time attendees welcome: to meet Pre-prep and early years group (PPEYG)
1030	Conference welcome – <i>Katie Paynter and Gill Emmerson, conference directors</i>
1040	Communication and mental health – <i>Natasha Devon, MBE</i>
1130	Refreshments and exhibition
1210	Manage your mind: get the best from your brain – <i>Dr Brian Marien</i>
1300	Lunch and exhibition
1400	Utilising the power of visualisation, animation, story, song and humour to engage children in deep mathematical learning experiences – <i>Dave Godfrey</i>
1450	Refreshments and exhibition
1520	Work of IAPS and Pre-prep and early years group (PPEYG) and augmented reality – Celia Etchegoyen, IAPS director of education, Jan Amstutz, CEO BEEM, Phil Hardy, chair of PPEYG
1600	District meetings
1900	Drinks reception and conference dinner After-dinner speaker – <i>Dr Suzie Imber</i>

Programme: Friday 11 March

0830		Coffee and exhibition
0900		Moving forward with tech: ensuring a broad and balanced curriculum through technology – <i>Lee Parkinson</i>
0950		Coffee and exhibition
1020		Seminar sessions (A):
	1	Improving Oral speaking through technology – <i>Lee Parkinson</i>
	2	Utilising number fun as a powerful teaching tool – the practical bit! - <i>Dave Godfrey</i>
	3	Inspection – <i>Diane Gardiner</i>
	4	Psychological education and the protective power of social and emotional learning – <i>Dr Brian Marien</i>
	5	Meeting the challenges of assessment in the EYFS – <i>Professor Pat Preedy</i>
1110		Coffee and exhibition
1120		Meeting for Pre-prep and early years district advisers - <i>chaired by Phil Hardy</i>
1150		Seminar sessions (B) - repeat of seminar session (A)
1250		Leading learning the lazy way – <i>Jim Smith</i>
1340		Farewell
1350		Lunch

Keynote sessions

Communication and mental health – *Natasha Devon, MBE, body image and mental health campaigner*

This session will include why it's so difficult to discuss mental health issues honestly and without confusion; tips for having mental health conversations with young people productively; tips for encouraging a person who is struggling to open up about their mental health; understanding where your role begins and ends - it is not your job to 'fix' it for them; the importance of boundaries and self-care; where to seek further information and support.

Utilising the power of visualisation, animation, story, song and humour to engage children in deep mathematical learning experiences – *Dave Godfrey, founder Number Fun*

Dave's Number Fun songs have been sung in schools for over 20 years, bringing joy and creativity to the teaching of mathematics. The launch of the Number Fun Portal in 2019 has transformed how the songs are used. Dave will explore the unique characteristics of Number Fun and the theory behind it. He will share how the addition of video and animation, enhanced by the amazing power of story, equips teachers to engage their children in deep and enjoyable learning experiences, helping them to reach for the stars. Be prepared for a fun-filled, active and thought-provoking keynote!

Keynote sessions

Manage your mind: get the best from your brain – *Dr Brian Marien, co-founder and director Positive Group*

The pace of change in the education landscape has accelerated rapidly in the past two years. As heads you've had to embrace a very novel set of challenges, navigate uncharted territory and at the same time endeavour to support your staff, students and their families through a uniquely stressful period in human history. Leading through uncertainty can be difficult, but there are things we can do to make it easier. Join Positive Group psychologist and co-founder, Dr Brian Marien, as he explores how the development of a core set of psychological skills can create a style of psychologically informed leadership which enables you to manage your mind, get the best from your brain and remain resilient in the face of stress, challenge and uncertainty.

Moving forward with tech: ensuring a broad and balanced curriculum through technology – *Lee Parkinson, Mr P ICT*

In this session, Mr P will look at where schools are at post-pandemic, the lessons we have learnt and how we can continue to move forward. Through creative technology, he will show how learning can be more accessible, empowering and help teachers strike a better work-life balance.

Leading learning the lazy way – *Jim Smith, author The Lazy Teacher*

Jim talks about his journey transferring his 'lazy' ideology from the classroom to headship. Jim will share his philosophy by means of takeaway practical examples, some lazy leadership wins for your school and some epic examples of where it went wrong - proving, lazy or otherwise, we are all still learning.

Seminar sessions

Inspections – *Diane Gardiner, education training consultant*

A highly experienced ISI Reporting Inspector and EYFS specialist will help delegates learn how to prepare for an inspection and how to prepare their staff, so they know what to expect. The session will show delegates the current documentation that they will be required to use and how to use it effectively. During the session, the delegates will learn how they can present their setting to the best advantage and show the inspectors what they need to see as well as understanding the criteria the inspectors will be using to judge the outcomes for pupils for achievement and personal development. At the end, delegates will have the opportunity to clarify specific areas with the seminar leader.

Utilising number fun as a powerful teaching tool – the practical bit! – *Dave Godfrey, founder Number Fun*

Within this workshop, Dave will explore a host of ideas for engaging children in active, creative and fun-filled mathematical learning. Delegates will experience seven powerful ways to use a video as a teaching tool. Dave will model how a video can inspire the use of concrete resources and provide opportunities for the development of mathematical reasoning. Delegates will consider how they might make further use of the Number Fun stories and story characters. Dave will also explore how teachers can seamlessly incorporate Number Fun into their planning and how its use can help with formative assessment.

Seminar sessions

Psychological education & the protective power of social and emotional learning – *Dr Brian Marien, co-founder and director Positive Group*

Resilient teachers perform better under pressure, have better cognitive function, experience better physical health and are more effective at positively influencing and motivating students. Over the past few years the level of work-related stress, burnout and absence amongst teachers has increased. Teacher wellbeing has significant implications not only for the individual, their family, but also for their colleagues, students and schools more broadly.

Join Positive Group psychologist and co-founder, Dr Brain Marien, as he explores an evidence-based approach to promoting mental health in schools. At Positive, we advocate a proactive, whole school approach to psychological wellbeing. And we strongly believe the best place to start is with your school staff – ‘teachers first’. We draw on the latest advances in neuroscience, psychology and the medical sciences to help equip staff with relevant social and emotional learning. Once staff have developed core psychological skills for themselves, we empower them to share the same science, tools and techniques in their classrooms.

Given the rising prevalence of psychological problems in our young people, we know it is important to intervene earlier to combat the current trajectory of child and adolescent mental health problems. The earlier in life our children learn these skills the more protective they will be.

Seminar sessions

Improving oral speaking through technology – *Lee Parkinson, Mr P ICT*

In this session, Mr P will demonstrate a range of apps that you can use in class to develop key oral speaking skills.

The Statutory Framework for EYFS 2021 – *Professor Pat Preedy, educational consultant*

The statutory framework for the EYFS became effective from September 2021. This seminar session will critique the new framework and highlight key changes to the Learning and Development requirements. It will also explore the implications for us as independent schools. The session is for those unable to attend the online webinars led by Professor Pat Preedy in May and July 2021.





After-dinner speaker: Dr Suzie Imber

Associate professor of planetary science, Suzie has climbed some of the world's highest and most challenging mountains, programmed supercomputers, helped develop space tourist training programmes and won the BBC's search for a future astronaut. Covering everything from satellites to teamwork, the future of science to dealing with risk, she looks at the lessons from all aspects of her work.

Conference exhibition

As usual, there will be an exhibition at the conference. This offers a wealth of benefits to attendees, including the opportunity to chat face-to-face with exhibitors who are experts in our sector, and the chance for you to gain knowledge of new products and resources to take back to your school. We are always very grateful for the support of these companies and it also reduces your cost to attend.

CANCELLATION: If a delegate cancels their application up to and including 4 weeks prior to the date, a refund of 75% of the fee will be given. 50% of the fee will be refunded up to and including 2 weeks prior to the date. Thereafter, IAPS regrets that no refund can be made. **INSURANCE:** IAPS regrets that it cannot accept liability for loss or damage however caused to personal property of any person attending this or any other event organised under the auspices of the Association.

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