

**18-19
Feb
2025**

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Sofitel Downtown Dubai

Inspire excellence, grow
as a leader, navigate
change and stand out as
an exceptional school.

MENA Leadership Summit

EXPERT SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

John Bell

Principal,
Bloom World Academy

Diana Osagie

Leadership Coach and
Trainer

Sajid Gulzar

Principal, Kings'
School Al Barsha

Mark Steed

Interim Principal and
CEO, Stamford School

Leadership

Be inspired by international leaders
and share outstanding practice.

Excellence

Stand out from competitors and
attract students and staff.

Growth

Develop your team and strategic
leadership.



Why attend this event?

With the increasingly competitive nature of international education, how can you embrace new models for schooling and stand out from competitors?

Spend time with other international school leaders, sharing outstanding practice and benefitting from insights and expertise from lessons learned at the cutting edge of international education.

Take away tools and tips to take your leadership and school to the next level, celebrating healthy culture, tackling challenging conversations and growing your strategic leadership. Equip your team with systematic professional dialogue which empowers reflective practice and growth.



The benefits

Leadership

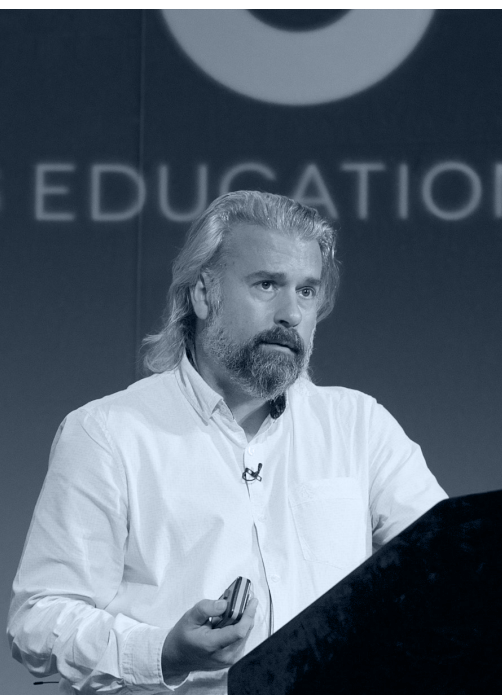
Share outstanding practice and learn lessons from international school leaders

Culture

Shape and embed your culture and attract staff and families.

Innovation

Drive innovation, stand out in the market and shape the future of K-12 education.





Speakers



Diana Osagie

Leadership Coach and Trainer



David Irish

GEMS Education
Senior Vice President of Children's
Services



Mark Steed

Consultant and Director, Steed
Education, Interim Principal and CEO,
Stamford School



Sajid Gulzar

Kings' School Al Barsha
Principal



John Bell

Bloom World Academy,
Principal



Rebecca Coulter

Dubai British School Jumeirah,
Principal



Dr Ambika Gulati

The Millenium School,
Principal



Nargish Khambatta

Senior Vice President, GEMS
Education, Principal and CEO, GEMS
Modern Academy



John Paton

Dubai British School Jumeira,
Head of Inclusion





Programme

18 February, Sofitel Downtown Dubai

08:30 – 09:10 Registration and refreshments

09:10 – 09:15 Welcome and housekeeping

Optimus Education

09:15 – 09:25 Welcome and introduction

Diana Osagie, Leadership Coach and Trainer.

09:25 – 09:55 Juggernaut thinking

Be unafraid of the level of your excellence. Be intentional in mindsets that underpin your level of excellence. Embrace the level of agency needed for your life and leadership.

Diana Osagie, Leadership Coach and Trainer

09:55 – 10:30 International schools are a powerhouse of creativity and innovation - how are they shaping the future of K-12 Education?

With the increasingly competitive nature of international education, how can you embrace new models for schooling, such as remote teaching and hybrid education and stand out from competitors.

Mark Steed, Interim Principal and CEO, Stamford School

10:30 – 10:50 Keynote

10:50 – 11:00 Facilitated questions and answers

11:00 – 11:40 Morning refreshments, networking, and exhibition

11:40 – 12:30 Workshop choices one

1A: Navigating the global recruitment crisis

Gain new models for talent management and unpack how to make the most of your teaching resource. Explore how to incorporate remote teaching into your curriculum mix.

Mark Steed, Interim Principal and CEO, Stamford School

1B: Challenging conversations

Equip yourself for tricky conversations with a toolkit that will give you confidence and positive outcomes.

Diana Osagie, Leadership Coach and Trainer

1C: Growing your school

Develop your long-term strategy for growth.

12:30 – 13:20 Lunch, networking, and exhibition

13:20 – 13:50 The north star of leadership

Explore the importance of authenticity in leadership and the range of elements that come together to give a leader authenticity.

Sajid Gulzar, Principal, Kings School Al Barsha

13:50 - 14:00 Discussion and questions

14:00 - 14:50 Workshop choices two

2A: The art (and the craft) of leadership

Explore the balance between personal leadership presence and practical skills. Engage in tasks that will enable you to reflect on the importance of cultivating authenticity, building trust and developing strong team dynamics.

Sajid Gulzar, Principal, Kings' School Al Barsha

2B: Making the transition from Head to Principal-CEO

Upskilling school leaders to take on the top job.

Mark Steed, Interim Principal and CEO, Stamford School

2C: Let's talk and develop

Develop a systematic professional dialogue to ensure teachers and leaders take responsibility for their own professional development and improvement in an international school environment.

14:55 – 15:15 Afternoon refreshments, networking, and exhibition

14:30 – 15:00 Confessions of a serial leader

Benefit from lessons learnt over many years leading schools and leaders, the top tips, what to watch out for, the soft and the hard skills to lead the leaders in an international school environment.

John Bell, Principal and Founder, Bloom World Education



Programme

19 February, Sofitel Downtown Dubai

08:30 – 09:10 Registration and refreshments

09:10 – 09:15 Welcome and housekeeping

Optimus Education

09:15 – 09:45 Empowering every child to reach their potential

David Irish, Senior Vice President of Children's Services, GEMS Education

09:45 – 10:15 Effective team leadership

Develop leadership, empower your team and ensure accountability and growth.

Nargish Khambatta, Senior Vice President, GEMS Education

Leigh Girven, Principal, Greenfield International School

Rebecca Coulter, Principal, Dubai British School Jumeirah Park

10:15 – 10:40 Leaders' roundtables

10:40 – 11:00 Facilitated questions and answers

11:00 – 11:40 Morning refreshments, networking, and exhibition

11:40 – 12:30 Workshop choices one

1A: Shifting the needle

Driving school improvement by micro shifts in cultures and practice.

Dr Ambika Gulati, Principal, The Millennium School

1B: Leading through transition

How to grow strong leadership from solid foundations and build a legacy that survives transition and change.

John Paton, Head of Inclusion, Dubai British School Jumeira

1C: What makes you different?

How to market and celebrate your unique strengths to attract both students and staff.

Nick Hart, Principal, Horizon English School

12:30 – 13:20 Lunch, networking, and exhibition

13:20 - 14:10 Workshop choices two

2A: AI

Leverage AI mindfully to enable staff and students to flourish.

Nargish Khambatta, Senior Vice President, GEMS Education

2B: Making the transition from Head to Principal-CEO

Practical steps to engage parents, manage expectations and work in partnership for excellence.

Emma Dawson, Vice Principal, North London Collegiate School

2C: Rapid improvement culture

Foster a team culture which is committed to accelerating ambitious outcomes for students and effect change to drive school improvement.

Rebecca Coulter, Principal, Dubai British School Jumeira Park and Leigh Girven, Principal, Greenfield International School

14:10 – 14:30 Afternoon refreshments, networking, and exhibition

14:30 – 15:15 Global horizons: lessons from international school growth worldwide

15:15 – 15:45 Leaders' roundtables

15:45 – 16:00 Reflections and next steps

BOOK TODAY



‘Engaging, interactive and impactful.’

Senior Leader,
2024 conference

‘Informative and inspiring. Engaging presenters shared practical tips that can help instantly.’

Senior Leader,
Doha College

MENA Leadership Summit

Tuesday 18 February 2025, Sofitel Downtown Dubai

PRICING

Prices	Full value
2 day summit ticket	£250 + VAT ≈ 1,160 AED
Day 1 (18 February 2025), 1 delegate	£150 + VAT ≈ 698 AED
Day 2 (19 February 2025), 1 delegate	£150 + VAT ≈ 698 AED

For discounted rates for group booking, please contact us on +44 20 8315 1506 or email: conference.bookings@optimus-education.com

A school may send a different member of staff to each day of the Summit when purchasing the two-day pass. However, they must be from the same school.

What’s included in your delegate package?

- High quality programme based on extensive research and delegate insights.
- Choice of workshop sessions to tailor your day to your needs.
- Downloadable copies of presentation slides from every speaker’s session.
- Free lunch, with tea, coffee and refreshments provided during morning and after-noon breaks.
- Access to experienced experts and leading practitioners.
- Networking opportunities with peers so you can establish best practice.