

44th COBIS Annual Conference Programme

Listen. Learn. Lead.

Draft Programme – subject to change

Saturday 9 May 2026

Time (UK time)	
12:45-14:45	More Commendations than Recommendations: Making the Most of Your COBIS Accreditation and Compliance Journey (optional pre-conference course; pre-booking required)
14:00-16:15	Pre-registration (collect delegate bags and badges)
15:00-16:00	COBIS UK Ltd AGM (open to Member Schools only)
18:30-21:30	Welcome Reception and Dinner Devonshire Terrace (sponsored by MSP LAB)

Sunday 10 May 2026

Time (UK time)	
08:15	EXHIBITION OPENS
09:00-09:30	Welcome and Opening Remarks – Inclusivity <i>Colin Bell, CEO, Jim Knight, Chair, COBIS</i>
09:30-10:30	PLENARY SESSION <i>Frank Gardner, BBC Security Correspondent</i>
10:35-11:10	Exhibition and Break <i>Informal meet-up: New School Members, New Heads, and First-Time Conference Attendees from schools are invited to an informal meet-up with members of the COBIS Board</i>
11:10-12:10	MORNING BREAK OUT SESSIONS
	Building Effective Teams: Creating Impact in Education [interactive] <i>Francesco Banchini, CEO & Director, European Azerbaijan School</i>
	Reimagining Leadership and Learning with and for the Community: A strategic shift in continuing school improvement for international schools. [facilitated discussion] <i>Olivia Roth, Director of School Evaluation and Development Services, CIS; Maria Osowiecki, Assistant Director of Accreditation, COBIS</i>
	Building Student Voice Ecosystems: Designing Leadership That Drives Systemic Change [interactive] <i>Calvin Eden, Global Edge</i>
	Preparing Students and Schools for a World that Does Not Exist [facilitated discussion] <i>Dr Luke Roberts, Complex Systems Innovator, Resolve Consultants Ltd</i>
	AI safeguarding in schools: addressing the six priority risks with confidence [interactive] <i>Matthew Wemyss, Assistant School Director, Cambridge School of Bucharest</i>
	Human-First AI Curriculum: What Early-Adopting Schools Are Learning [facilitated discussion] <i>Rita Bateson, Co-founder, Eblana Learning</i>
	Beyond School Improvement and Inspection [presentation] <i>Professor Deborah Eyre, Founder, High Performance Learning</i>
	Building Inclusive International School Communities [interactive] <i>Sarah Brannon, Head of Preparatory School, Brighton College Dubai</i>
12:10-13:10	Juxtaposing Practices that Reinforce Social Differences: A sense-making exercise to promote inclusivity [interactive] <i>Michael Neumann, St George's International School, Luxembourg</i>
	LUNCH WITH EXHIBITORS (silent seminars at 12:25 and 12:45)
13:10-13:25	PLENARY SESSION – COBIS Updates – Collaboration

13:25-13:40	PLENARY SESSION – British International Schools Safeguarding Coalition Update <i>Emily Konstantas, CEO, The Safeguarding Alliance; Fiona Cottam, Principal, Hartland International School</i>
13:40-14:25	PLENARY SESSION – The Science, Art and Craft of Teaching <i>Andreas Schleicher, Director for Education and Skills, OECD; Lauren Binnington, Director of Learning, St Christopher's School, Bahrain; Stephanie Holt, Director of Learning and Teaching, DSB International School</i>
13:20-14:00	Supporting Associate and Exhibitor Meet-Up: Making the Most of Your COBIS Benefits
14:30-15:30	AFTERNOON BREAK OUT SESSIONS
	Navigating the future: Preparing Learners to Thrive in a Changing World <i>Dr Irenka Suto, Head of Secondary Curriculum, International Education, Cambridge</i>
	Building Global Pathways for Teacher Development <i>Chaired by: Victoria Pugh, Director of Education and Professional Learning, COBIS</i>
	From Start-Up to Established: Leading with Optimism When Everything Is Changing [interactive] <i>Louise Salmond Smith, Founding Head, and Shaun O'Keeffe, Deputy Head, Haileybury Malta</i>
	CHASE Kindness: Leading schools with empathy and impact [presentation] <i>Joanna Povall, Principal, Wales International School</i>
	Navigating Leadership Transitions: Findings from a global study of International Schools [presentation] <i>Heather Styche-Patel, CEO, RSAcademics and Matt Hall, Director, Making Stuff Better</i>
	The Sustainability Algorithm: Disrupting Education for a Flourishing Planet [presentation] <i>Simon Burbury, Master, Marlborough College Malaysia and Andrew Watson, CEO, Sustainability Education</i>
	Strengthening Governance in the International Sector [presentation] <i>Alex Mitchell, AGBIS International; Mick Smith, Director of Accreditation, COBIS; Judith Green, Consultant, Veema</i>
	Outside the Box: integrating hybrid delivery of the curriculum to solve old problems and create new opportunities [panel] <i>Rob Jamieson, Pearson School Qualifications; Paul Glossop, University of Derby; Rufus Sanders, Inspired Online Schools; Hugh Viney, Minerva Virtual Academy; Melissa McBride, Sophia High School</i>
15:30-16:00	EXHIBITION AND BREAK
16:00-16:50	PLENARY SESSION <i>David Olusoga, Historian and Broadcaster</i>
16:50-17:00	Round-Up, Thank You and Close
17:00-18:00	Wine Reception with Exhibitors (sponsored by Go4Schools)

Monday 11 May 2026

Time (UK time)	
08:15	EXHIBITION OPENS
09:00-09:15	WELCOME <i>Colin Bell, CEO, COBIS; Jane Nash and Dan Milne, Narativ</i>
09:15-09:45	PLENARY SESSION – Student Panel (Student voice sponsors: University of Sunderland / Evolve Advice) <i>Panel chaired by Vanita Uppal OBE, Director, The British School New Delhi</i>
09:45-10:30	PLENARY SESSION <i>Susie Dent MBE, Lexicographer, Etymologist and Presenter; in conversation with Simon O'Connor, Harrow International School Dubai</i>

10:30-11:00	EXHIBITION AND BREAK
11:05-12:10	MORNING BREAK OUT SESSIONS Listen Learn Lead – Sustaining Human Purpose in an Age of Acceleration. A 25-year reflection [interactive] <i>Karen Ardley, Founder and Dr David Porritt, Director of Coaching, Karen Ardley Associates</i> Five Steps to Success in COBIS Accreditation and Compliance Processes <i>COBIS Accreditation Team</i> How to Predict the Future [interactive] <i>David Tongue, Principal, Doha College and COBIS Board Member</i> The great candidate migration: using the latest global teacher mobility data to strengthen recruitment in a changing geo-political climate [presentation] <i>Dan Worth, International Editor, Tes</i> The Power of Productive Inefficiency: Building Resilient Schools in a Fast-Changing World [interactive] <i>Christopher O'Shaughnessy, Author/Speaker</i> The Future of Wellbeing in International Schools: Insights from Leaders Who Are Changing the Game [panel] <i>Steph Hawkins, Well Well Well; Rhiannon Phillips-Bianco, Globeducate; Tomas Duckling, Dubai College; Martin van der Linde, The British School Manila</i> Building and sustaining positive collaboration to impact school culture [interactive] <i>Claire Waller and Patrick Heuff, Headteachers, The British School in the Netherlands</i>
12:10-13:05	LUNCH WITH EXHIBITORS (silent seminars at 12:25 and 12:45)
13:05-13:20	PLENARY SESSION – COBIS Updates – <i>Ambition</i>
13:20-13:35	PLENARY SESSION – Beyond Growth: What the Latest Data Reveals About International Schools <i>Leigh Webb, CEO, ISC Research</i>
13:35-14:15	PLENARY SESSION – Hope and Positivity in Times of Conflict <i>Dr Attaullah Wahidyar, Chair, HHOA; fireside chat with Jim Knight, The Rt Hon Lord Knight of Weymouth, COBIS Chair</i>
14:20-15:20	AFTERNOON BREAK OUT SESSIONS Courageous Authenticity Before, After and During Crisis Management [interactive] <i>Sarah Chesworth and Dr Glenn Moodie, KTJ</i> Disruption and Design: Learning in a Changing World [interactive] <i>Joseph Kotarski, Associate Director, Accreditation and School Improvement, NEASC; Kai Vacher, Principal, British School Muscat and COBIS Board Member</i> Listen, Learn, Lead Across Cultures: Culturally Mediated Leadership (CML) in British International Schools [interactive] <i>Joshua Sussex, Deputy Head: Secondary, XCL International School Malaysia / SRI KDU International School Penang</i> Whose Normal is it Anyway? Redefining Leadership for Every Context <i>Laura Stansfield, Group Primary Curriculum and Assessment Coordinator, Braeburn Schools; Tim Richards, Executive Principal, Braeburn Garden Estate International School</i> When Students Feel Seen: The Power of Measuring What Makes us Truly Human [interactive] <i>Nick Reeves, Headmaster, Colegio Colombo Britanico</i> Building Values-Driven Schools Through Student Voice & Wellbeing Data [interactive] <i>John Ford, CEO, YouHQ</i> Three School Case Studies – Developing New Strands Designing Holistic Online Education: A Case Study in Building CGA's LIFE Programme <i>Beth Haresnape, Head of Student LIFE and Campus Lead, Crimson Global Academy</i> Embedding middle school change through an extended residential programme <i>Craig Considine, CEO, Tanglin Trust School</i>

	Leading Together – Strengthening Home–School Partnerships for Student Success <i>Daniela Quadrio Santofimio, Secondary Deputy Head Pastoral, and Mariajosé Otálora, Primary Deputy Head Pastoral, Colegio Anglo Colombiano</i>
	Managing adult conduct concerns with care: Balancing accountability with empathy [interactive] <i>Leila Holmyard, Jane Larsson, International Taskforce on Child Protection</i>
15:20-15:45	EXHIBITION AND BREAK
15:45-16:35	PLENARY SESSION – Storying the Future <i>Jane Nash and Dan Milne, Directors and Lead Trainers, Narativ</i>
16:35-16:45	THANK YOU AND CONFERENCE CLOSE
18:45-19:30	44th COBIS Annual Reception
19:30-22:00	44th COBIS Annual Dinner Formal attire Lincoln's Inn (sponsored by Zenda)