

SECONDARY NATIONAL CONFERENCE

3rd OCT 2025

PiXL

TIMINGS:

From 09:00: Registration and arrival refreshments
09:30 – 10:00: Non-member Session
10:15 – 10:45: Time to Think Session One
11:00 – 12:30: National Conference Part One
12:30 – 13:30: Lunch
13:30 – 14:35: National Conference Part Two
14:45 – 15:15: Time to Think Session Two

VENUE

Central Hall,
Storey's Gate, Westminster,
London, SW1H 9NH

PLANNING THE YEAR AHEAD: THE POWER OF PRECISION

The cohort of 2025 were the students who came to us in Year 7 and were with us through the Covid years. This conference will look at what we have learned from their results this summer, patterns that we are seeing nationally (both explicit and more subtle) and what all of this tells us as we welcome the new KS4 cohorts. We will be reflecting on the small things that made a difference in some of our partner schools, exploring strategies that we can implement in the next few months and focusing on how we can have precision, so we have impact in the right places. With new resource releases, new thinking and helpful top tips from the network, this conference will get your year off to a great start and provide helpful clarity for your next steps.



AGENDA

NATIONAL CONFERENCE PART ONE: 11.00 – 12.30

- **Precision and play:** both/and, not either/or
- Closing the gender gap **with Ferndown Upper School**
- Achievement for all **with Acklam Grange School**
- Preparing for excellence
- Time to Think
- **Your Insights** – learning from across the network
- Removing barriers with precision
- **Feed Forward:** the latest data from the summer
- Hope through the challenge
- Conference close, part one

NATIONAL CONFERENCE PART TWO: 13.30 – 14.35

- Welcome Back!
- **The educational landscape:** what we know about the past and the future
- **Accuracy and Precision with Year 11:** The data duo you can't afford to mix up (Pupil Progress)
- The latest data **from Teacher Tapp**
- Understanding your parent community to power partnership **with ParentKind**
- Time to Think in your leadership
- How PiXL can support you this year

TIME TO THINK SESSIONS

THE YEAR AHEAD: PRACTICAL THINGS TO CONSIDER FOR YEAR 11 (AM ONLY)

In this session, **Rachel Johnson** will go through some practical motivational and organisational strategies you may want to consider over the next year as you prepare Year 11s for their exams. Rachel will cover some of the PiXL classic approaches that are now well embedded in many schools but will also draw on some of the more recent research and how we may act on it. This session will take ideas from inside, and outside, education and will give you lots of ideas to consider in your own schools.

SIMPLE APPROACH TO WHOLE-SCHOOL READING AND LITERACY (AM ONLY)

The team at Thornhill Academy in Sunderland have done some brilliant work on developing reading, running various small projects in their school. There has been significant impact from a 'just read' and other simplistic approaches. Principal, **Liam Clark**, will take you through their journey over the past couple of years, what they have implemented and the impact that it has had.

THE YEAR AHEAD FOR THE RSL: A VIEW FROM TWO DIFFERENT SCHOOLS (AM ONLY)

In this session, **Will Teece** and **Jenny Gaylor** will explore the things they do at Brookvale Groby and Carshalton Boys School to ensure that they are on track. From RSL Core meetings, to using PiXL resources and courses, to Personalised Learning Checklists, setting the WIG and equipping their leaders, there will be lots of helpful ideas to take away.

ALTERNATIVE LEADERSHIP: BOLD AND BRAVE LEADERSHIP (AM ONLY)

This session is for anyone interested in alternative leadership and working in alternative provisions both in a mainstream setting and outside of one. The team will talk through the latest issues and explore the brave and bold decisions needed when working in this space. **Danielle Haxby**, **Sarah Judge** and **Nick Reed** will all share what they are doing in their settings to make a difference to their staff and young people.

RESPONSIVE TEACHING FOLLOWING ASSESSMENTS (AM ONLY)

Assessment is part of the rhythm of the year but what can we do following assessments to ensure that we are responsive in our teaching and that students are progressing their learning and closing gaps? **Tracie Deane** will explore what they have done in their school to ensure that responsive teaching follows assessment.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW IF YOU ARE LINE MANAGING SCIENCE (AM ONLY)

How can you help your Science Department thrive even amidst some of the challenges of content and staffing shortages? In this session, **Karen Collins** takes some of the challenges that Science departments face and gives you practical solutions to consider. Whether it is non-specialist teachers, mathematical content across maths and science, the most common misconceptions or the role of assessment in science, this session will touch on it all. If you line manage a science team, this will be an invaluable session.

THE TOP 3 TIPS TO RAISE AN EXTRA £10,000 IN YOUR SCHOOL WITH PARENTKIND (AM ONLY)

Need to start a PTA or power up the one you already have? Get the insider knowledge from Parentkind, who manage 13,000 PTAs daily across the UK. Hear the benchmarks on national fundraising and how schools with or without a PTA can successfully motivate parents to get involved to raise £10,000 of funds for your school.

PRECISE EXPECTATIONS AT OAK WOOD SCHOOL (AM AND PM)

The team at Oak Wood School have presented a number of sessions over the last few years on the changes that they have made at the school. One of the realisations has been that in order to implement high-quality teaching and learning schools need to support teachers with clear expectations and guidance so that they feel safe and valued. Only then will they deliver the best lessons possible. In this session, the team at Oak Wood will explain what they have done, what they are planning to do, what has worked (and what has not) and the impact they have seen, and hope yet to see.

SOLID FOUNDATIONS: SUPPORTING YOUR ENGLISH DEPARTMENT TO ENABLE SUCCESS (AM AND PM)

This session will explore some of the organisational building blocks needed to set up an English Department for success. **Lynne Ca** works with English Departments to trouble shoot some of the issues they may be facing and to help them bring clarity to ensure success. If you are line managing an English Department, this session will help give you the questions to ask and a checklist of things to have in place so that your English team feel supported in their work. Lynne will explore some practical things that may help around data analysis, marking, moderating, tracking towards a WIG and will share some of the most popular English resources that PiXL has.

OUR POST-PANDEMIC WORLD: THE CHANGES WE ARE SEEING AND WHAT PEOPLE ARE DOING ABOUT THEM (PM ONLY)

We know that things are not going back to how they were before the pandemic – we can feel the shift even if no-one is declaring anything specific about it or being clear HOW things have shifted. In this session, **Rachel Johnson** will give you a whistlestop tour of what we think we know now about how things have changed and how things will change. Using the most up-to-date insights and research from across the world, this session will explore how we lead through the challenges of social media and phones, lower attendance, parent-school relationships, Gen Z teachers and flexible working. This is the start of a bigger conversation but it will encourage us to think big, bold and brave as we seek to address the issues that we see in plain sight.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW IF YOU ARE LINE MANAGING MATHS (PM ONLY)

In this session, our Maths lead **Naomi Bartholomew Millar** will take you through the issues we saw across last year in maths and some of the areas where your maths team may benefit from some support. This session will be a mix of strategic leadership ideas and practical resource to help you in the leadership of your maths department including how ensuring your maths and Science teams work together, will benefit all.

CREATING A CULTURE WHERE ALL CAN THRIVE (PM ONLY)

Acklam Grange is a school in Middlesbrough that has achieved some extraordinary things over the last 5 years which has been reflected in their Year 11 results. In this session, **Mike Laidler** explains what they have done and why they have done it and the impact that it is having. From taking care of the school buildings to making academic excellence the norm to creating a sense of belonging and aspiration, this session will build on the session from the main stage and will give you practical approaches to make a difference this year and in the future.

GETTING ASSESSMENT RIGHT IN YEAR 11 (PM ONLY)

Assessment means more than tests and although we know that, are we sure that precise assessment to understand gaps is happening in each of our subject areas? In this session, **Karen Collins** (PiXL's assessment lead, author and Educational Assessor) will help outline the different ways that we can check learning and some practical suggestions that can be used in classrooms now. Karen will also explore the questions that you might want to ask and the things you may want to look out for as you move through the year.

INNER TAPP: HOW IT CAN SUPPORT YOUR SCHOOL (PM ONLY)

Fresh from their new launch of Inner Tapp, a new partnership between InnerDrive and Teacher Tapp, Laura will explore more of the findings from leaders in schools and the research which may help you address it. If you want to get an overview of the educational landscape right now, this will be a helpful session unpicking the issues of the past, the present and predicting the issues of the future.

LEADERSHIP TIME TO THINK WITH JOE SPARKS (PM ONLY)

This session will give you time to stop, to breathe, to think and to reflect and will also challenge too. This is a responsive session which will pick up on some of the most recent themes explored by leaders across the Leadership Time to Think September sessions on the platform.

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR PiXL MEMBERSHIP: HOW SCHOOLS ARE USING THE OFFER (PM ONLY)

The PiXL offer is like a box of paints: we provide lots of different colours but you are the one who is painting your picture so you are in control, the brush is in your hand. This session will help you identify what picture you are trying to create through setting a WIG and identifying barriers and then how the PiXL offer can support you in doing that. This is a great session for new schools, new Headteachers or new RSLs. A practical walk through of what you can benefit from, all at no extra cost, all included in your membership.



**IGNITING LEADERS,
CHANGING LIVES**

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