



2026



TITLE:

TEACHING FOR TOMORROW

SPEAKER: THOM JONES

PRESENTATION TYPE: PLENARY

Abstract

"Relevance in revolution"

All of our certainties are gone...

As the myriad evolution of the 'calculator for the mind' that is AI leads to a revolution in education and the potential death of language learning, where do teachers find any chance to remain relevant or even guess what our students might need in a future we cannot know? Is this new? Where do we learn what future students will need to succeed tomorrow? With an obvious ecological, economical and political tide sweeping established ideas and systems away, what comes next? Can we help shape it? Should we try?

The world we knew is gone. Into this new tomorrow, what can we offer? Do any of the values or ideas we hold dear need to be transmitted to future generations? Which skills really matter? Can we teach values? Should we try? What can education today do to help the learners of tomorrow? As we say the triumph of the easy answer, what price reflection? Education? Tolerance? At what point do our educational efforts become indoctrination? Where do we stand? Where should we stand? Who gets to decide? There will be discussions, Workshop elements and a massive crowd of clever people asked difficult questions. Bring your own clever.

Biography

Thom Jones has lived in more than a dozen countries and delivered training in over 70. Having been a truly useless student (and proving it frequently by failing all the exams he was set) he started his professional life as a waiter before going into teaching, then management, before going freelance. Formerly part of the senior executive at Embassy CES before becoming Director of Operations USA for Studygroup he returned to the UK to work with Trinity College London and now works with a range of organisations on a wide variety of projects. He is College Principal for an international summer programme in Cambridge each summer. He presents regularly at conferences around the world on a range of topics and is a guest lecturer at four universities. He is also a freelance trainer in business and management. Ten years ago he cycled from the UK to Turkey, travelling through 11 countries. He is Ambassador of Buzz for Express publishing.

He is rubbish at maths. His mother thinks he is great.