

Sunday 27 September 2026

PROGRAMME

09.00 - 09.20

Registration and coffee

Exchange 11, Manchester Central

09.20 – 09.30

Welcome and introductions

Speakers:

Dr Anne Cotton, HMC Chair and Head, King's College School, Wimbledon

Ruth Sanderson, HMC Head of International Member Services

Nick Hammond, HMC Chair, International Division and Principal, British School of Paris

Exchange 9, Manchester Central

09.30 – 10.15

Session 1: Hold, Evolve, Reimagine: A Decision Framework for What International Schools Should Protect, Adapt, and Let Go Of

Speaker: Raya Bidshahri, Educator and Entrepreneur, Founder/CEO, School of Humanity

As international schools navigate mounting pressure from parents, regulators, and a rapidly shifting world, the instinct is often to either defend everything or disrupt everything. This talk offers a more useful path: a three-tier framework for discerning leaders who want to act with intention rather than anxiety.

We'll explore what high-performing schools should hold, relational learning, structured challenge, high expectations, what they should evolve, report cards, timetabling, the role of the teacher, and what they should be willing to reimagine entirely: high-stakes summative assessment, the meaning of a credential, the geography of a campus, the definition of a cohort.

Drawing on case studies from School of Humanity's work across 45+ countries, the talk moves from principle to practice. Attendees will engage with real examples of mastery-based progression, challenge-based and interdisciplinary curriculum design, reimagined summative assessment, and learning that crosses borders, through hybrid models, global immersion weeks, and exchange programs. Throughout, the focus is on systems thinking: identifying the actual levers for change, and building the parent and community buy-in needed to pull them.

This isn't a talk about what schools could look like in theory. It's a practical framework for leaders who are already asking the right questions, and need help deciding which answers are worth the risk.

Exchange 9, Manchester Central

10.15 - 11.05

Session 2: Peer sharing session: Across our borders

Panel Speakers:

Kate Ingamells-Bland – Headteacher, The Grange School, Chile

Tomas Duckling – Headmaster, Dubai College, UAE

Sarah Raffray – Executive Principal, King’s College International School, Bangkok, Thailand

Chair: Louise Simpson – CEO, The British School in The Netherlands

Exchange 9, Manchester Central

11.05 -11.15

International Day Conference Sponsor

Exchange 9, Manchester Central

11.15 - 11.45

Refreshment Break

Exchange 11, Manchester Central

11.45 - 12.45

Interactive Masterclass Part 1: The Listening Leader: Creating Cultures of Trust, Connection and Fun

Speaker: Jenny Mosley, Director and Founder of Quality Circle Time

Charter 9, Manchester Central

12.45 - 13.45

Lunch

Exchange 11, Manchester Central

13.45 – 15.15

Interactive Masterclass Part 2: The Listening Leader: Creating Cultures of Trust, Connection and Fun

Speaker: Jenny Mosley, Director and Founder of Quality Circle Time

Charter 6, Manchester Central

15.15 - 15.30

Closing Reflections

Speaker: Nick Hammond, HMC Chair, International Division and Principal, British School of Paris

Charter 9, Manchester Central

15.30 - 15.40

International Division Photograph

Manchester Central

19.00

International Conference Drinks Reception and Dinner

Chetham’s School of Music