

Sunday 27 September 2026

PROGRAMME
09.00 - 15.30
International Day <i>Manchester Central</i>
15.00
Fringe activities available

Monday 28 September 2026

PROGRAMME
09.00
Registration Opens <i>Exchange Foyer, Manchester Central</i>
09.00 - 11.00
Networking and refreshments available throughout the morning in the Conference Hub <i>Exchange Hall, Manchester Central</i>
09.00 - 11.00
Opportunity for School visits
09.00 - 10.00
Affiliate Member Meeting <i>Manchester Central</i>
09.00 - 10.00
Boarding Schools' Meeting <i>Manchester Central</i>
10.00 - 11.00
IBDP Schools Meeting <i>Manchester Central</i>
10.00 - 11.00
Schools in Cathedral Closes Meeting <i>Manchester Central</i>
11.00 - 11.25
New members' welcome <i>Exchange Hall, Manchester Central</i>

11.25 - 11.30

Move to the Auditorium for the start of conference proceedings

11.30 - 11.45

Conference Welcome

Speaker: Simon Hyde, CEO, HMC

Auditorium, Manchester Central

11.45 - 12.15

Chair's Opening Address

Speaker: Dr Anne Cotton, HMC Chair 2026-27 and Head, King's College School Wimbledon

Auditorium, Manchester Central

12.15 - 12.20

A word from our headline sponsor

Auditorium, Manchester Central

12.20 - 13.10

Keynote 1:

Speaker: David Marquet

Auditorium, Manchester Central

13.10 - 14.20

New Members' Lunch

Manchester Central

13.10 - 14.20

Lunch and Networking

Served among the exhibitors

Exchange Hall, Manchester Central

14.25 - 15.10

Keynote 2: Dr Anne-Marie Imafidon MBE and Dame Alison Peacock: in conversation

Dame Alison Peacock, Chief Executive, Chartered College of Teaching, will lead an in conversation with Dr Anne-Marie Imafidon MBE, CEO of Stemettes and Chair of the Institute for the Future of Work

Auditorium, Manchester Central

15.10- 16.30

Networking and refreshments available throughout the Conference Hub

Exchange Hall, Manchester Central

15.20 - 16.25

CEO/Principals' networking meeting

Manchester Central

16.35 - 17.20

Pioneering educational excellence : Celebrating research culture in HMC Schools

Auditorium, Manchester Central

17.30 - 18.00

Dame Carol Ann Duffy: A recital

The Exchange, Manchester Central

17.30 - 20.00

Networking drinks and early evening supper

An opportunity to share an informal dining experience.

The Exchange, Manchester Central

20.00

Off site fringe activities

Tuesday 29 September 2026

PROGRAMME

07.00 - 08.45

Breakfast in conference hotel, Women in Leadership Breakfast and morning Fringe activities

08.30

Exhibition opens

Exchange Hall, Manchester Central

09.00 - 10.15

Divisional Meetings

- East Division
- International Division
- Irish Division
- London Division
- North East Division
- North West Division
- Scottish Division
- South Central Division
- South East Division
- South West and Wales Division
- West Division

Manchester Central

10.15 - 10.20

Move to the Auditorium

10.20 - 10.30

Welcome to day two and a word from our Headline sponsor

Auditorium, Manchester Central

10.30 - 11.20

Panel Session: Preparing our young people for the world of work

Chair: John Prideaux, US Editor, The Economist

Panel Speakers:

- Raya Bidshahri, Educator and Entrepreneur, Founder/CEO, School of Humanity
- Raphael Mokades, Founder and Managing Director, Rare Technology
- Speaker TBC

Auditorium, Manchester Central

11.30 - 12.15

Networking and refreshments

Exchange Hall, Manchester Central

11.45 - 12.15

Roundtable Discussions

30-minute roundtable discussions designed to spark lively conversation between heads on topics that matter most to them. A valuable opportunity to exchange ideas, share learning, and explore practical approaches to the opportunities and challenges facing schools today.

The Exchange Hall, Manchester Central

12.20 - 13.10

CPD Seminars Session 1

Manchester Central

13.10 - 14.25

Lunch and Networking

Served among the exhibitors

Exchange Hall, Manchester Central

14.25 - 15.10

Keynote 3: What should my children do? A human's guide to the age of AI

Speaker: Dr Daniel Susskind, Mercers' School Memorial Professor of Business at Gresham College

Auditorium, Manchester Central

15.10 - 15.15

Move between sessions

15.15 - 16.05

CPD Seminars Session 2

Manchester Central

16.05 - 16.55

Refreshments and networking

Exchange Hall, Manchester Central

17.00 - 17.30

Keynote 4: The evolving landscape of higher education

Speaker: Dr Jo Saxton, CEO of UCAS

Auditorium, Manchester Central

17.30 - 19.15

Fringe Activities available

19.15 - 19.45

Drinks reception

The Midland Hotel

19.45 - 22.00

HMC Autumn Conference Dinner

The Midland Hotel

Wednesday 30 September 2026

PROGRAMME

07.00 - 08.45

Breakfast in conference hotels

08.30

Exhibition Opens

Exchange Hall, Manchester Central

08.45 - 09.15

Networking and refreshments

Exchange Hall, Manchester Central

08.45 - 09.15

Roundtable discussions

30-minute roundtable discussions designed to spark lively conversation between heads on topics that matter most to them. A valuable opportunity to exchange ideas, share learning, and explore practical approaches to the opportunities and challenges facing schools today.

Exchange Hall, Manchester Central

09.15 - 09.20

Move to auditorium

09.20 - 09.30

Welcome to day three and a word from our headline sponsor

Auditorium, Manchester Central

09.30 - 10.15

Keynote 5: TBC

Auditorium, Manchester Central

10.15 - 11.00

Keynote 6: Leading through challenge

Speaker: Joe Garner

Auditorium, Manchester Central

11.00 - 11.30

Refreshments and Networking

Exchange Hall, Manchester Central

11.30 - 11.45

AGM Registration

All members must register upon entry to the Auditorium

11.45 - 12.45

Members' only session: AGM

Auditorium, Manchester Central

12.45 - 13.00

Closing Remarks

Speaker: Dr Anne Cotton, HMC Chair 2026-27 and Head, King's College School, Wimbledon

Auditorium, Manchester Central

13.00 - 14.30

Lunch and final catch ups

Exchange Hall, Manchester Central

14.30 -16.30

Optional Workshop: Global citizenship: Reimagining education for a more peaceful, more sustainable future

Facilitated by: Andrew Watson, CEO, Sustainability Education (SusEd)

In partnership with Sustainability Education (SusEd), we are delighted to offer members a free-of-charge opportunity to attend a workshop on Reimagining education for a more peaceful, more sustainable future. You will be invited to explore how education may evolve beyond traditional boundaries - curricular, cultural, and institutional - if it is to become a force for peace, sustainability, and systems transformation.

Manchester Central