

## BRITISH COUNCIL MADRID TEACHERS' CONFERENCE - SEPTEMBER 26, 2015

**'LEARNING TO LEARN': OUR LIVE STREAMED TALKS**

This year, British Council Madrid has again selected sessions from our annual teachers' conference to be professionally streamed to a viewing audience around the globe. Focusing on this year's theme, 'Learning to Learn', education professionals from all backgrounds are likely to find something of interest, whatever age group they teach. Please let any relevant contacts know about the event, or consider organising something around the talks yourself.

**HOW TO FOLLOW THE EVENT**

You can tune in on the day to our host channel for the event:

<http://www.ustream.tv/channel/british-council-spain>

You can also follow live updates using Twitter: #CreativeElt. After the event, you will be able to view these talks on our YouTube and Vimeo Channels:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/BritishCouncilSpain> and <http://vimeo.com/britishcouncilspain>

For more information contact: [martin.goosey@britishcouncil.es](mailto:martin.goosey@britishcouncil.es) or [llanos.gomez@britishcouncil.es](mailto:llanos.gomez@britishcouncil.es).

**THE OPENING PLENARY:****GAIL ELLIS****ADVISER YOUNG LEARNERS AND QUALITY  
BRITISH COUNCIL****TEACHING OUR LEARNERS HOW TO LEARN**

Learning to learn is an important aim of most curricula throughout the world but often tends to remain at the more abstract level in official documents. One of the main reasons for this is a lack of practical guidelines and training for teachers. Lesson observations have also revealed lessons which often lack a transparent structure with a clear beginning, middle and end. In this talk Gail discusses the theoretical and methodological concepts of learning to learn and demonstrates how the 'plan do review' routine provides both teacher and students with a framework which combines both metacognitive and cognitive strategy development. In this way, students are guided to reflect on what and how they learn, as well as to self-assess their performance and gradually take on more responsibility for their own learning.

**FOCUS: TEACHING ENGLISH TO YOUNG LEARNERS / TEENS**

**TIME: 09.00-10.00 UK TIME**

**ABOUT GAIL:**

Gail is Adviser Young Learners and Quality for the British Council, based in Paris. She has over 30 years' experience as a teacher, teacher trainer, and manager. Her publications include *Learning to Learn English*, *The Primary English Teacher's Guide* and *Tell It Again!* (republished in its third edition in 2014 by the British Council). Most recently, *Teaching Children How to Learn* has been published by Delta. Her main interests include children's literature, young learner ELT management, and inclusive education.

## THE TALKS:

### JOANNA MARRIOT

---

#### BRITISH COUNCIL SOMOSAGUAS



#### **EARLY YEARS: CREATING A LINGUISTICALLY RICH LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**

This talk considers what assumptions we have about children in Early Years and looks at how we can use this knowledge to create activities that are rich in language learning opportunities, whilst at the same time bringing in early learning theory. Joanna considers the role of play and how we can use structured play in routines and activities. She also looks at how we can use project and art work as a platform for communication, and what we can do to harness the energy and enthusiasm of children in Early Years.

**FOCUS: TEACHING ENGLISH TO EARLY YEARS**

**TIME: 10.10-11.00 UK TIME**

#### **ABOUT JOANNA:**

Joanna has been working in ELT for the last 20 years as a teacher, academic manager and teacher trainer. She leads the Primary and Early Years Department in the British Council Somosaguas teaching centre, Madrid. She is part of the British Council European working group on Early Years product development and believes strongly in using Early Years development areas as a framework for holistic language learning. Joanna is DELTA qualified and is currently completing a diploma in Early Childhood development. She is also a tutor for the British Council/Trinity College TYLEC.

### BERNADETTE MAGUIRE

---

#### BRITISH COUNCIL SPAIN EXAMS



#### **TESTING AND EXAMS: WHAT DO WE NEED TO KNOW?**

The internationalisation of education from primary schools through to higher education, and the subsequent increase in academic mobility, have created a need to measure and standardise language levels, almost always through language exams. Many of these tests are 'high stakes', leading to life-changing opportunities. So what do teachers need to know about assessment, testing and language exams in general in order to provide their students with the right advice and guidance? This presentation examines the role of assessment and testing within the classroom, and how this compares in nature to the external evaluation to which students are highly likely to be exposed at some point outside the classroom.

**FOCUS: TEACHING ENGLISH TO TEENS / ADULTS**

**TIME: 11.40-12.30 UK TIME**

#### **ABOUT BERNADETTE:**

Bernadette has worked in English teaching for 30+ years. Her classroom experience spans all levels and many contexts from Primary to university students at the British Council Teaching Centre in the Universidad de Alcalá. She is now Academic Adviser for English Language Examinations and Accreditation for British Council Spain, and member of the *Mesa Lingüística* for English in the *Conferencia de Rectores de las Universidades Españolas (CRUE)*. This board aims to harmonise and positively influence linguistic policies at universities in Spain. She is particularly interested in language assessment and testing and their role in the language learning process.

## ALASTAIR ROY

---

### BRITISH COUNCIL SOMOSAGUAS



#### **SMALL TALK: MAKING INTROVERTS' VOICES HEARD IN THE EFL CLASSROOM**

'Someone who is shy and quiet': this is the dictionary definition of an introvert. In a world where participation and communication are assumed to be the key to successful language learning, how can we help introverted learners unlock their full potential? In this session, Alastair looks at some of the barriers faced by introverts in EFL classes, and discusses simple changes we can make to our classroom practice that will give all our students the best opportunities.

**FOCUS: TEACHING ENGLISH TO TEENS / ADULTS**

**TIME: 12.40-13.30 UK TIME**

#### **ABOUT ALASTAIR:**

Alastair has worked in education in both Scotland and Spain since 2006, first in the state sector and then in EFL. After obtaining the Trinity Diploma TESOL he worked as Senior Teacher and Centre Manager in language schools in Extremadura, and is now based in Madrid, where he teaches in the British Council's Somosaguas Teaching Centre. His particular areas of interest include encouraging learner autonomy through the use of new technology, and the use of learner diaries.

## THE CLOSING PLENARY:

## PETER WRIGHT

---

### DIRECTOR WONDERSTRUCK



#### **ULTIMATE FORCE: AN EXPLOSIVE LOOK AT FORCES AND PRESSURE**

Feeling under pressure? Stare in slack-jawed wonder as Peter attempts to propel himself across the stage with a home-made rocket pack. Goggle with awe as he detonates a desk-top thermobaric bomb with only minor damage to himself, and gasp in admiration as he uses a rocket-powered deckchair to solve the world's transport problems. These are just a few of Mr. Wright's many spleen-clenching pressure and forces demonstrations that are guaranteed to entertain, act as a tonic to the enquiring mind, and replace the perspiration of hardworking teachers with an explosion of inspiration.

**FOCUS: TEACHING ENGLISH TO YOUNG LEARNERS / TEENS / BILINGUALISM / MAINSTREAM / CLIL**

**TIME: 13.40-15.15 UK TIME**

#### **ABOUT PETER:**

Erstwhile poet, parachutist and engineer, Peter studied Physics at university and has since followed a wilfully eccentric career path. He has made parts for nuclear submarines and office chairs; taught physics to A-level; travelled Asia and the Middle East investigating contact between the Mongols and Crusaders; and run education at Action Stations, an educational themed visitor attraction in Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. For the last nine years he has worked as Director of Wonderstruck, designing education resources for the likes of the NHS, AimHigher, the Royal Navy, schools and teachers, and, much to his delight, exploding large bins full of cuddly toys.