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NASS
National Association of Special Schools

NASS Conference 2026

DAY ONE - WEDNESDAY 11TH NOVEMBER

8.45 AM REGISTRATION OPENS & REFRESHMENTS

9.30 AM **CONFERENCE WELCOME**
NASS Chair with introduction to Clive Lawrence OBE, NASS's new CEO

9.45 AM **WHY YOUNG PEOPLE'S VOICES MATTER**
Sam Webster, former student at William Henry Smith School

10.05 AM **JUGGERNAUT THINKING: THE MINDSET THAT UNDERPINS THE FUTURE OF YOUR ORGANISATION**
Diana Osagie, Courageous Leadership

11.00 AM REFRESHMENT BREAK

11.20 AM

MORNING WORKSHOPS

PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF JUGGERNAUT THINKING TO USE TOMORROW
Diana Osagie, Courageous Leadership

HOLDING COMPLEXITY, SUSTAINING COMPASSION: SUPERVISION IN SPECIAL EDUCATION
Jules Sanderson, Talking Heads Supervision

SUPPORTING STUDENT WELLBEING: FROM MONITORING TO MEANINGFUL ACTION
Stuart Lane, Moor House School

CYBER RISK IN SPECIAL SCHOOLS: PRACTICAL GUIDANCE FOR LEADERS
Tim Larden, Access Insurance

MEASURING AND EVIDENCING IMPACT IN SPECIAL SCHOOLS
Younes Henini, Stone Soup Academy
Rebecca Hale, Esteem Valley Academy
Feliciea Jibson, PAGS

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE: A DECADE OF PROFOUND IMPACT AT ST JOSEPH'S
Kathryn Hitchings & Laura Buckle
St Joseph's Specialist Trust

12.20 PM LUNCH

1.20 PM **THE PAUSE BEFORE THE ROOM: LOOKING AFTER YOUR OWN LANE IN UNCERTAIN TIMES**
Elly Chapple, TEDx Speaker and Author of Diagnosis: Human

2.00 PM **NEXT STEPS FOR SEND REFORMS**
Dame Christine Lenehan, SEND strategic advisor to the Department for Education

3.00 PM

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS & PANEL DISCUSSION

PANEL DISCUSSION: BUILDING MEANINGFUL PARTNERSHIPS WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES
Host - Dale Pickles, SENDcast
Margaret Mulholland, ASCL
Hero Slinn, Octavia House School
Richard Frieth, Stone King
Hannah Spencer, Spaghetti Bridge

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE
Carolyn Eyre, Eyre Safeguarding Ltd

RESILIENT BY DESIGN: THE CIPD AWARD-WINNING LEADERSHIP MODEL TRANSFORMING SEND SCHOOLS
Nicky McGarry, Forest Bridge School

WHEN SCHOOL FEELS TOO HARD - WHAT CAN WE DO DIFFERENTLY FOR PUPILS WITH EBSA
Rachel Boylan, High Peak School

REDEFINING SUCCESS IN A MERITOCRATIC SYSTEM: THE LEADERSHIP CONTRIBUTION OF SPECIAL SCHOOLS
Phil Leaney, Birch Wood Area Special School

AN ORGANIC APPROACH TO TEACHING NEURODIVERSITY WITHIN THE CURRICULUM
Hannah Stollar & Carla Kellegher, Inscape House School

4.00 PM REFRESHMENT BREAK

4.30 PM **NASS AWARDS 2026** Sponsored by AssuredPartners, A Gallagher Company

5.30 PM DAY ONE OF CONFERENCE CLOSES

6.00 PM **Strong for Life™ wellbeing workshop**

7.30 PM **CONFERENCE DINNER** Sponsored by VWV

9.30 PM **DISCO**

#NASSConf2026

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NASS
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DAY TWO - THURSDAY 12TH NOVEMBER

8.45 AM REGISTRATION OPENS & REFRESHMENTS

9.00 AM **NASS AGM**
NASS members only

9.30 AM **DAY TWO WELCOME**
Clive Lawrence OBE

9.40 AM **READY OR NOT? KEEPING A STEP AHEAD OF OFSTED, THE DFE AND EVERYONE ELSE! WHAT SPECIAL SCHOOLS NEED TO DO NEXT**
Deirdre Fitzpatrick, Goddard Education

10.20 AM **OFSTED: ONE YEAR OF INSPECTIONS OF SPECIAL SCHOOLS UNDER THE NEW FRAMEWORK - WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?**
Lee Owston, Ofsted
Rebecca Bhageerutty, Mortimer House School
Calvin Wallace, Peterhouse School
Laura Thackaberry, Quest Academy

11.10 AM REFRESHMENT BREAK

11.30 AM

MORNING WORKSHOPS

SPECIAL SCHOOLS – DO THEY REALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE?
Tracie Linehan, BeyondAutism

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IN THE FAMILY ENVIRONMENT (CSAFE)
Carolyn Eyre, Eyre Safeguarding Ltd

MORE THAN WORDS ON A WALL: BUILDING A CULTURE THAT PULLS TOGETHER
John Reilly, Orchard Hill College and Academy Trust (OHCAT)
Anna Huzzey, Addington Valley Academy

HOW TO PROTECT YOUR ORGANISATION FROM A CAMPAIGN OF VEXATIOUS COMPLAINTS
Ryan Campbell, Natalie Boothroyd & Helen Franks, Prior's Court
Natalie Wargent, VWV

WHEN THE LIGHT GOES OUT
Sharon Gray, Wholehearted Learning

FUTURE-PROOFING THE SPECIAL SCHOOL ESTATE: CLIMATE-RESILIENT DESIGN FOR NEW AND AGEING BUILDINGS
Mark Guyatt, TG Escapes

12.30 PM LUNCH

1.20 PM **STATE OF THE SECTOR**
Claire Dorer OBE

2.00 PM

AFTERNOON WELLBEING WORKSHOPS

SUSTAINABLE LEADERSHIP: LEADING WELL WHILST FEELING WELL
Julie Liddell, Still Human

NATURAL RESET AND REST
Lisa Lea-Weston, Talking Heads Supervision

THE SECRET SAUCE OF ACHIEVING OUTSTANDING WELLBEING ACROSS ALL STAFF, OVER A BUMPY 4-YEAR JOURNEY
Martin Lonergan, Northern Counties School

A SPACE TO PAUSE: AN EXPERIENTIAL INTRODUCTION TO GROUP SUPERVISION
Jules Sanderson, Talking Heads Supervision

3.05 PM **CLOSING REMARKS**
Clive Lawrence OBE

3.15 PM CONFERENCE CLOSES