

**22  
May  
2024**      **23  
May  
2024**

**Inclusion Wellbeing**  
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**Sofitel Downtown Dubai**

**Deepen and enrich your  
inclusion and wellbeing  
strategy and culture,  
evidence impact, and  
ensure everyone thrives**

**SUPPORTED BY:**



# **Inclusion & Wellbeing**

# **MENA 2024**

## **EXPERT SPEAKERS INCLUDE:**

**Gareth Morewood**

Educational Advisor,  
Studio III (Inclusion Chair)

**Louise Dawson**

Education Consultant  
and Inclusion Specialist  
(Wellbeing Chair)

**Berna Bouwer**

Corporate Head of Inclusion,  
GEMS Education

**Sarah Johnson**

Phoenix Education  
Consultancy

## **Strategy**

Ensure high quality support with  
an effective strategy.

## **Community**

Engage with parents and carers,  
ensuring joined up support.

## **Teaching**

Enable high quality teaching and  
behaviour management.



# Why attend this event?

**Our Inclusion & Wellbeing MENA conference returns to Dubai in May 2024. With a focus on practical workshops and facilitated networking, take this opportunity to deepen your connections with other inclusion and wellbeing leads. Learn from shared best practice and gain strategies to lead high quality provision.**

Gain top tips to support students through differentiation and scaffolding, ensuring high quality teaching and personalised, individualised learning. Identify tools to support your teaching of students with dyslexia and ADHD, whilst boosting the confidence of your teaching team's ability to create an inclusive classroom for students of determination.

Prioritise whole-school wellbeing with tools to manage staff workload, student behaviour and the involvement of the wider school community. Develop your understanding of anxiety, and how it affects young people and take away practical solutions to alleviate stress within a supportive environment.

Our free-to-attend seminars for learning support assistants take place on day one. Boost your LSAs' skills and confidence with practical resources and strategies to support students with additional need.



## The benefits

### Culture

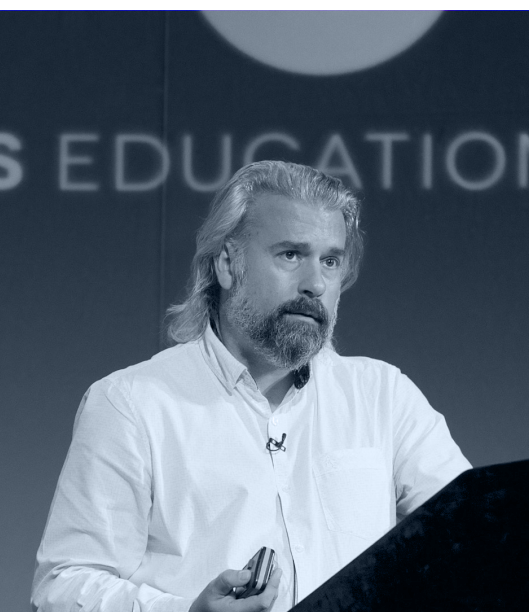
Create a culture that is always inclusive and supportive.

### Leadership

Develop skills to support staff and lead on wellbeing.

### Provision

Ensure challenge and support for English language learners.





# Programme

**Inclusion Conference | Day 1 | 22 May | Dubai**

**08:00 – 08:40**      **Registration**

**08:40 – 08:45**      **Welcome from Optimus Education**

**08:55 – 09:10**      **Chair's welcome**

*Gareth Morewood, Educational Advisor, Studio III*

**09:10 – 09:40**      **Meet demand with an effective Inclusion strategy**

Lead your school wide strategy for supporting students of determination ensuring high quality support for all.

*Louise Dawson, Education Consultant and Inclusion Specialist, Berna Bouwer, Corporate Head of Inclusion, GEMS Education and Nargish Khambatta, Senior Vice President - Education, GEMS Education*

**09:40 – 10:00**      **Supportive technology**

Empower your students, teachers and learning support assistants with the latest technological advancements.

*Alex Gray, Head of Science, Dubai British School, Leader & Founder of DEEP Professional*

**10:00 – 10:10**      **Questions using [www.sli.do](https://www.sli.do) #oeMENA**

**10:10 – 11:10**      **Workshop choices 1**

**1a: Supporting learners through differentiation and scaffolding**

Provide support structures for your students, enabling progression of subject understanding without leaving anybody behind.

*Emmanuel Awoyelu, Specialist Teacher and qualified SENCO*

**1b: Empowering multilingual learners: A strengths-based approach and technology**

Discover how a strengths-based approach and innovative technology can enhance English language learning. Celebrate linguistic diversity and optimise learning outcomes for multilingual learners.

*Jenny Loach, Head of Education - International, Flash Academy and Lily Shaekhova, Head of EAL, GEMS FirstPoint School*

**1c: ADHD: teaching self-regulation**

Understand the complex need of students with ADHD and support those learners with self-regulation techniques.

*Dr Diksha Laungani, Educational, Child & Adolescent Psychologist, The Psychology Center at the Carbone Clinic*

**11:10 – 11:50**      **Refreshments, networking and exhibition**

**11:50 – 12:45**      **Workshop choices**

**2a: Identification methods – what can you put in place before diagnosis**

Take a proactive approach to supporting students whilst they undergo assessment, implementing support strategies early to enhance social and academic progress.

*Gareth Morewood, Educational Advisor, Studio III*

**2b: Able, gifted and talented inclusion**

Engage your most able students and prevent stagnation of progress through individualised planning.

*Andaleeb Ishteyaq, Head of Inclusion and Pastoral Care, JSS Private School Dubai*

**2c: English language learners**

Lead high quality English provision and improve learners access to the curriculum in the classroom and communication with teachers and peers.

*Gemma Donovan, Head of Whole School EAL, South View School, Dubai*

**12:45 – 13:45**      **Lunch, networking and exhibition**

**13:45 – 14:40**      **Workshop choices**

**3a: Upskilling teachers and building confidence**

Develop your teaching staff's toolkit to work with students of determination, enabling consistent and confident teaching.

*Gareth Morewood, Educational Advisor, Studio III*

**3b: Behaviour as communication**

Effectively manage behaviour of students, ensuring students feel safe and able to focus on learning.

*Sarah Johnson, Phoenix Education Consultancy*

**3c: Dyslexia**

Unlock strategies to support dyslexic students, enhancing reading, writing, and comprehension in inclusive classrooms.

*Zara Awan, Head of Learning Support Services, The Developing Child Centre*

**14:40 – 15:00**      **Afternoon refreshments, networking and exhibition**

**15:00 – 15:55**      **Workshop choices**

**4a: Create effective individual education plans**

Tailor provision, meet diverse need, and drive student success with individual education plans.

*Louise Dawson, Education Consultant and Inclusion Specialist and Aparajita Sahoo, Head of Inclusion, JSS International School*

**4b: Navigating parental culture**

Communicate effectively with the parent community, ensuring aligned visions for support.

*Victoria McKeown, Primary Inclusion Leader, Sunmarke School*

**4c: Developing social skills**

Prioritise oracy and social skills, developing students' confidence at navigating through social school environments.

*Emmanuel Awoyelu, Specialist Teacher and qualified SENCO*

**16:00 – 16:15**      **Action your learning**

Reflect on the lessons you have heard today, and pinpoint three objectives to take back to school.

*Gareth Morewood, Educational Advisor, Studio III*

**16:15**      **Conference closes**



# Programme

Wellbeing Conference | Day 2 | 23 May | Dubai

08:00 – 08:40 Registration

08:40 – 08:45 Welcome from Optimus Education

08:45 – 08:55 Chair's Welcome

*Louise Dawson, Education Consultant and Inclusion Specialist*

08:55 – 09:35 Drive your staff wellbeing strategy

Drive a supportive wellbeing culture within your school, utilising staff assessment and discussion to improve staff wellbeing, improving retention and reducing cost of cover.

*Suzie Hachez, Wellbeing Counsellor at CIS & GEMS Counselling Network Leader*

09:35 – 09:55 Surfacing digital safeguarding data: Digital devices as a window to self-harm, violence, and bullying

How might we best surface actionable insights which identify and support those who require our support?

*Colin McCabe, International Director, Lightspeed Solutions*

09:55 – 10:05 Questions and answers using [www.sli.do](https://www.sli.do) #oeMENA

10:10 – 11:10 Workshop choices

1a – Anxiety support

With increasing need for anxiety support, gain helpful tools to understand and alleviate the distressing symptoms, assisting self-regulation.

*Sarah Johnson, Consultant, Phoenix Education Consultancy*

1b: Measure wellbeing across your school

Utilise assessment tools to gauge student and staff mental and emotional wellbeing to evidence and drive change.

*Samina Al-Balooshi, International Consultant, GL Education*

1c: Manage your workload

Review your workload, prioritise tasks and maintain a healthy work-life balance.

*Andaleeb Ishteyaq, Head of Inclusion and Pastoral Care, JSS Private School Dubai*

11:10 – 11:50 Refreshments, networking and exhibition

11:50 – 12:50 Workshop choices

2a: Manage classroom behaviour

Implement proactive strategies and techniques to promote a healthy learning environment, ensuring consistent engagement and respect among students.

*Louise Dawson, Education Consultant and Inclusion Specialist*

2b: Respond to student need

Apply effective response strategies for those students that require additional wellbeing support.

*Dr Lené Rensburg, Head of Wellbeing and School Counsellor, Brighton College Dubai*

2c: Upskill staff in wellbeing teaching

Educate your whole school staff on the importance of wellbeing support with practical strategies they can use to support those that require additional support.

*John Paton, Director of Inclusion, Wellbeing and Pastoral Care, Arcadia School*

12:50 – 13:50 Lunch, networking and exhibition

13:50 – 14:50 Workshop choices

3a: Student Mental Health Matters

Understand the complexity and early signs of mental health crises, and gain tips to manage the process from referral to managing meeting with parents and communicating with a team.

*Dr Daniela Salazar, Clinical Psychologist and Education Director, Lighthouse Arabia*

3b: Create wellness spaces

Review your classrooms and corridors, and create spaces designated for mindfulness, quiet time and those with sensory need.

*Leah Vahanian, ELL Coordinator, Fairgreen International School*

3c: Destigmatise mental health and wellbeing

Recognise the importance of open conversation surrounding mental health, and lead community change with students and families.

*Louise Dawson, Education Consultant and Inclusion Specialist*

14:50 – 15:10 Afternoon refreshments, networking and exhibition

15:10 – 15:35 Involve your community

Engage with parents, to educate, align and improve wellbeing support around your students.

*Dr Kayleigh Sumner, Director of Feel the Psychology and Head of Positive Education and Wellbeing at Fortes Education and Dr Leanne O'Brien, Director of Feel the Psychology, Educational Psychologist at Insights Psychology*

15:45 – 16:15 Strategic planning of wellbeing

Define your wellbeing goals and objectives, and sequence your next steps to achieve improved provision.

*Louise Dawson, Education Consultant and Inclusion Specialist*

16:15 Conference closes





# Speakers

## Inclusion Speakers



### **Gareth Morewood**

Educational Advisor, Studio III  
(Chair)



### **Berna Bouwer**

Corporate Head of Inclusion,  
GEMS Education



### **Sarah Johnson**

Consultant  
Phoenix Education Consultancy



### **Emmanuel Awoyelu**

Inclusion Specialist Teacher and qualified  
SENCO



### **Zara Awan**

Head of Learning Support Services,  
The Developing Child Centre



### **Alex Gray**

Head of Science, Dubai British School  
Emirates Hills, Leader & Founder of DEEP  
Professional

## Wellbeing Speakers



### **Louise Dawson**

Education Consultant and Inclusion and  
Wellbeing Specialist  
(Chair)



### **Suzie Hachez**

Wellbeing Counsellor at CIS & GEMS  
Counselling Network Leader



### **Andaleeb Ishteyaq**

Head of Inclusion and Pastoral Care, JSS  
Private School Dubai



### **Dr Kayleigh Sumner**

Director of Feel the Psychology and Head  
of Positive Education and Wellbeing at  
Fortes Education



### **Dr Daniela Salazar**

Clinical Psychologist and Education  
Director, Lighthouse Arabia



### **Dr Lené Rensburg**

Head of Wellbeing and School Counsellor,  
Brighton College Dubai



*'Great presenters with relevant and important information needed to drive inclusivity in schools.'*

**Director of Guidance and Wellbeing,  
International School of Kuwait**

*'I met some amazing people and have deeper faith in humanity and intentions for inclusion.'*

**Director of Teaching and Learning,  
School of Modern Skills**

# Inclusion & Wellbeing MENA 2024

**22 May – 23 May 2024**, Sofitel Downtown Dubai

## PRICING

Your ticket includes a place at the conference, a free lunch, access to all of the presentation slides and wraparound content.

	Full Price
Day 1 (22 May 2024), Inclusion, 1 delegate	£315 + VAT ≈ 1465 AED
Day 2 (23 May 2024), Wellbeing, 1 delegate	£319 + VAT ≈ 1485 AED
Both Days, 1 delegate	£490 + VAT ≈ 2280 AED

**For discounted rates for group booking, please contact us on +44 20 8315 1506 or email: [amy.ward@optimus-education.com](mailto:amy.ward@optimus-education.com)**

A school may send two different members of staff to the Inclusion and Wellbeing events when purchasing the two-day pass. However, they must be from the same school.