

The Learning Conference Schedule

“Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.”

Education is an echo chamber of opinions, yet the best educators remain perpetual learners, unafraid to question their own assumptions. As we navigate the complexities of learning, one truth stands out: the most effective systems, schools, and classrooms are those that challenge the status quo. They make decisions grounded in a continuous commitment to understanding learning—and their role within it.

Educators recognise the complex nature of shifting outdated educational ideals and embrace commitment to revolutionising factory models of education, challenging the notion that education's primary role is to preserve traditions. By championing equity, innovation, collaboration, and self-awareness, we can drive meaningful change within our educational landscape.

This is not just about what we do in the classroom – it's about how we engage with learning in every aspect of our work and lives. Expect to be challenged, inspired, and provoked to rethink your role in shaping learning-centred cultures.

As we embark on this Learning Conference, let's begin by asking:

- ◆ Are we truly modelling the learning we want to see in others?
- ◆ What shifts must we make in our daily work to align with the principles of deep learning?
- ◆ How do we collectively build communities where learning is not just an event, but a way of being?

Join us as we redefine what it means to learn, lead, and grow – together.

Friday, September 5th

6:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Welcome Reception with Drinks, Snacks & Opening Address

MC: Linda Douglas

Kickstart Your Conference Experience with Connection and Inspiration
Join us for an exciting evening of connection, inspiration and community as we launch the conference weekend! Hosted by renowned education leader Gavin Grift, this event sets the stage for a transformative journey into understanding learning.

Explore key themes of our conference including the role of equity, self-awareness, leadership, collaboration and innovation when learning is our core business.

What to Expect:

Welcome Drinks: Relax, network and connect with fellow educators over drinks and light refreshments.

Keynote Inspiration: Gavin Grift will share his vision for the weekend, sparking reflection on the role of learning in our lives as educators.

Interactive Activities: Engage in fun icebreakers and creative challenges designed to foster meaningful connections.

Collaborative Conversations: Explore key themes like equity, leadership and innovation through small group discussions.

Attire: Smart Casual

Saturday, September 6th

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM

Registration & Coffee

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Keynote Address

Stuart MacAlpine & Gavin Grift

'If learning is our core business, what are the implications for my work, my colleagues, and my community?'

This keynote will explore how learning shapes not only what we do but how we think, connect and grow as individuals and as a collective.

10:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Morning Break

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Morning Breakout Sessions

Dive into thought-provoking sessions that explore critical themes in education and professional growth. Topics include:

- **Equity in Learning:** How can we ensure learning is accessible and inclusive for all?
Facilitator: Derek Hayman
- **AI in Education: Friend or Foe?:** How is Artificial Intelligence reshaping learning, and what does it mean for our practice?
Facilitators: Dr Jennifer Chang Wathall & Nicole Thorson
- **Engaging the Marginalised:** What strategies can help reach those most often excluded from traditional education systems?
Facilitator: Hester Hornbrook Academy Staff
- **Self-Awareness and Growth:** How does understanding ourselves enhance our ability to support others?
Facilitator: Juan Carlos Cairos
- **Collaboration as the Cornerstone:** What can we learn from environments that make collaboration their foundation?
Facilitator: Colin Sloper

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM

Lunch

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Afternoon Breakout Sessions

Continue your exploration with sessions designed to address the evolving challenges and opportunities in education. Topics include:

- **Leadership Under Pressure:** How can we keep learning central to leadership amidst constant change?
Facilitator: Sally Lasslett
- **Caring Critics:** Who are the right people to support us in our professional growth, and what's our role in seeking feedback?
Facilitator: Lucie Lecocq-Otsing
- **Lessons from Learning-Centred Schools:** What sets learning-centered schools apart from traditional models?
Facilitator: Ian Hayne

➤ **Teaching for Self-Efficacy:** Why does fostering self-efficacy matter, and how can we make it a reality?
Facilitator: Dr. Janelle Wills

➤ **Educational Partnerships and Local Learning Ecosystems:** How can innovative collaborations forge a sustainable future in education?
Facilitator: Dr. Louisa Ellum

3:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Afternoon Break

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Plenary Session

'What have we learned, why does it matter, and how will we take it forward?'

This dynamic closing session invites us to pause, reflect, and harness the key insights from the day. Whether we've explored learning in leadership, collaboration, or personal growth, this is our moment to distil what truly resonates.

Through thoughtful dialogue and shared reflection, we'll surface the most impactful ideas, clarify why they matter, and co-create actionable steps to carry them forward. To conclude, we'll engage in a powerful, unifying experience one that captures our collective commitment to learning, growth, and meaningful change. You'll leave not just inspired but equipped to turn insights into action.

5:00 PM

Closing Remarks & Farewell

Dates:

Friday, 5 September 2025
Saturday, 6 September 2025

Times:

Friday 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM
Saturday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
(Registration from 8:30AM)

Venue:

Hester Hornbrook Academy – City Campus
Level 3, 333 Exhibition Street, Melbourne

To register, visit our website:

grifteducation.com/events/the-learning-conference/
or scan the QR code.

Cost:

Individual Registration: \$499 (ex GST) per person

Team Registration: \$450 (ex GST)

**Team is a 3 or more people from one school/organisation*



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