

Contents ■

A message from the centre	02
New literature reviews for 2017 – 2018	03
Research Schools international partnership update	04
New all-school collaborations for 2017 – 2018	05
Global Citizenship Research update	06
PD opportunities	07

in-house



Number 1 ■ September 2017



**INVESTIGATE
INNOVATE
INSPIRE**

ACS International Schools

is a community of learners. We are all learners, and as teachers and education leaders our engagement in new learning is fundamental to our commitment to the continuous improvement of learner outcomes. As we work to improve the use of data and research to inform our choice of teaching strategies and school development decisions, there is a growing need for practical and relevant professional development opportunities in these areas. The Centre for Inspiring Minds is pleased to be able to expand its offer of in-house technical support and training to staff members across ACS International Schools.

In the past, we have identified topics based on strategic priorities, developed professional development courses, created a schedule for their delivery, and delivered the courses to those individuals with similar interests and availability.

This year, we are introducing a new approach to our research-focused professional development offer – professional development by request.

We will continue to develop and offer professional development courses that build practitioners' capacity to use teacher-directed observation, lesson study and action research to support their professional growth goals. We will continue to deliver these, both face-to-face at our campus locations, as well as virtually where appropriate. But we will not develop a schedule for their delivery. Instead, we will deliver (and develop) our courses by request.

Our explorations guide listing the courses we offer is on the CIM website at <http://cim.acs-schools.com/index.php/cim-explorations-2/>

To request a course:

- **select** a course from the 2017 – 2018 course offerings, or identify a research-related topic you want to learn more about
- **recruit** six or more participants from your campus, or from across the campuses
- **contact** Latifa Hassanali to schedule the course to meet the availability of the participants and the course leader.

We look forward to learning with you!



Ben and Latifa

A literature review

is a scholarly paper, which presents the current published, peer-reviewed knowledge about focused topics, as well as related theories, models and methods. Literature reviews are secondary sources, and do not report new or original experimental work. They are most often associated with published research reports, and should not be confused with book reviews that may also appear in the same publication. Literature reviews are a basis for research in nearly every academic field.

Producing a literature review may also be part of graduate and post-graduate student work, including in the preparation of a thesis or dissertation. Literature reviews are also common in a research proposal or prospectus (the document that is approved before a student formally begins a dissertation or thesis).

The main types of literature reviews are: evaluative, exploratory, and instrumental. A fourth type, the systematic review, is often classified separately, but is essentially a literature review focused on a research question, trying to identify, appraise, select and synthesize all high-quality research evidence and arguments relevant to that question. A meta-analysis is typically a systematic review using statistical methods to effectively combine the data used on all selected studies to produce a more reliable result.

When the Centre for Inspiring Minds opened in autumn 2012, it had a conceptual remit to support education professionals working across ACS International Schools, who had a passionate interest in or burning question about ways to improve teaching and learning. This commitment to innovation was grounded in using formal and semi-formal approaches to understanding and investigating the professional inquiry topics proposed by our project leaders.

Our research-based approach includes using ready-made research, emerging from universities and academic bodies, as well as original practitioner-led action research. Following action research methods, our projects all include a literature review. The literature reviews are either produced by the research project teams or commissioned through external professional research partners.

This year each of our eight projects will have its own literature review, four will be written by the research project leaders and four have been commissioned through external professional research partners. All our literature reviews are published online on the CIM website at <http://cim.acs-schools.com/index.php/literature-reviews-2/>

This year's literature review topics include: leadership for whole school approaches to learning for sustainability, co-teaching reading in primary school, understanding technology's contribution to learning, using first and English language texts for novel study in Language Arts and EAL, assessing middle school students' skill development, using lead sheets and playing by ear to develop aural literacy in Music, international school teacher transition, and Math literacy and Science learning. Watch your email for notifications of the availability of these publications as they are published.

The Centre for Inspiring Minds

has been partnering with Research Schools International (RSI), a project led by Harvard Graduate School of Education faculty members, since 2014. The project bridges the gap between research and practice by partnering Harvard-based researchers with schools around the world to carry out cutting-edge research aimed at improving teaching and learning.

RSI hosts biannual symposia to bring its partner schools together to share how practitioner based research is influencing their school. This year's symposium was held in June at the Harvard Graduate School of Education in Cambridge, MA. Amongst the schools who attended were Bedales, Eton College, and Latymer Upper School from the UK, Mid Pacific Institute from Hawaii, St. George's School and Pine Village Preschool from the U.S., and numerous research fellows from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

This year's symposium looked at Usable Knowledge. Bari Walsh, Harvard Graduate School of Education's Usable Knowledge Director, presented a workshop on how to translate new research into vibrant stories that can easily be read and shared. CIM found this workshop particularly useful as we are constantly looking at new ways to share the work of our action research teams. The workshop drew on best practices in communications to craft a story about the research being carried out in our schools. One of the best practices shared was to create a short, 1 minute, video sharing your story in sound bites to whet the viewer's appetite to than learn more about it.

When we returned to school, CIM created a one-minute video, entitled "Got a Minute?" for each of its 2016/2017 projects. To watch these videos visit the CIM website at <http://cim.acs-schools.com/index.php/got-a-minute/>

To learn more about Usable Knowledge, go to <https://www.gse.harvard.edu/uk>



Research Schools International Symposium participants, July 2017.

Got a Minute? Success Skills:



Five new "Got a minute?" videos are now available on the CIM website.

Global Language Community

The Centre for Inspiring Minds is pleased to be supporting the development of a new four-campus collaboration to develop and enhance students' identity languages through teaching, learning, and school culture, creating a global language community. This collaboration is being led by ACS Egham Head of School, Jeremy Lewis.

The launch for this collaboration will be participation in the November, ECIS InspirED event in Vienna. A group of teachers from across the ACS schools will have the opportunity to meet teams of teachers from other schools with similar plans to enhance the role of global language in their school culture.

The ACS team will explore questions like:

- What would a multilingual teaching and learning framework across an entire school look like?
- What can we do to support Mother Tongue maintenance and development across our school community?

To find out more about ECIS InspirED, visit the ECIS website at <https://www.ecis.org/learning/ecis-events/inspired>

Updates on the ACS team's experience of this unique training will be shared in future editions of in-house.

Learning for Sustainability and Sustainable Schools (Lfs)

The Centre for Inspiring Minds is pleased to be supporting the development of a new four-campus collaboration to introduce whole school approaches to Learning for Sustainability (Lfs). This collaboration is being led by ACS Cobham Head of School, Tony Eysle.

The ethos of learning for sustainability is deeply embedded in the ACS International Schools vision, values, educational philosophy and expected school-wide learning results. Our third ESLR, "caring contributors," and its five related success skills, are an expression of the learner outcomes we are committed to delivering. Learning for sustainability and its associated skills and dispositions of global citizenship, international mindedness, ecological conservation and service learning are practical ways for preparing all our learners to "make a difference" in the world.

The Lfs collaboration will begin with a cross-campus team of teachers and specialists coming together on 27 September to develop elements of Sustainability Guidelines for ACS International Schools. This autumn, they will seek feedback on this work through a school-wide consultation. Watch your email for further information about how you can contribute to this work.

In January 2017

a group of middle and high school students from ACS Hillingdon and ACS Cobham participated in a research project – Global Citizenship: Youth Perspectives – led by Loughborough University, Human Geography lecturer, Dr Sophie Cranston.

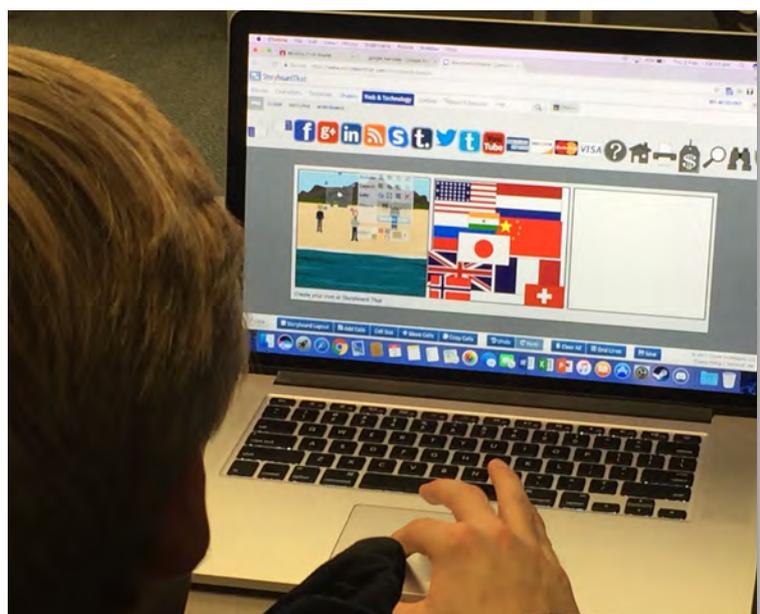
Dr Cranston’s research focuses on developing a better understanding of youth perspectives about global citizenship, in order to better design learning experiences that develop the knowledge, understandings, skills and dispositions that young people need to flourish in a globalized world.

In this early phase of her research, Dr Cranston asked 141 students, ages 13 - 17 from three schools – two co-educational international schools and one all girls state school – to develop cartoons with the title, “What I think global citizenship means.” She also engaged small groups of students from each of the three schools in a semi-structured interview, after they completed the cartoon design task.

The results of Dr Cranston’s research are summarized in a report that is available at <http://cim.acs-schools.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Global-Citizenship-Youth-Perspectives.pdf>

Dr Cranston’s qualitative analysis of the students’ responses suggests interesting differences between the perceptions of more and less globally mobile students, and suggests interesting questions for further research.

The Centre for Inspiring Minds would like to thank Karen Hershleb, Dawn Summerfield, Sara Dean and Eric Kerr-Herally for their help coordinating the participation of our ACS International Schools students.



ACS student designing a cartoon in response to the prompt, “What I think global citizenship means.”

Below are details of externally-sponsored, CIM-related professional development opportunities on offer over the coming months.

Think for yourself! Developing independent thinking in all learners

9 October 2017

Avonmouth House, London, SE1 6XN

This one-day workshop, sponsored by Independent Thinking, will explore: strategies to get children thinking for themselves; how to teach less so they think more; and how to create classrooms where the learning just happens, among other topics focusing on innovation in teaching and learning.

To register visit the conference website at

<http://www.independentthinking.co.uk/media/180932/think-for-yourself-.pdf>

CamSTAR Conference

17 October 2017

CATS College, Cambridge CB4 1NQ

The CamSTAR (Cambridge, School Teachers and Research) Network works with teachers and schools on professional development through practitioner research.

Amongst the workshops on offer are 'linking schools and community to increase student engagement with focus on local and social history'; 'building learning capacities through student leadership in an international school setting'; 'multilingualism in a Girls' Grammar school. A study into a multilingual reading project'.

To register for this half day conference please contact Latifa Hassanali –

lhassanali@acs-schools.com

IB Global Conference 2017

26-28 October 2017

The Hague, The Netherlands

The IB Global Conference offers unique opportunities to meet school leaders from across Europe, Africa and the Middle, and to share and learn from each other's experiences.

Amongst the presenters at this year's conference will be Oliver Chua from ACS Doha and Deanna Milne, former teacher at ACS Doha. They will be presenting a session on Student Reflections and Non-Cognitive Skill Improvement.

To register for this conference, visit the website at

<http://www.ibo.org/global-conference-the-hague/>

ACS Doha IB Coordinator, Oliver Chua, will co-present with former ACS Doha CAS Coordinator, Deanna Milne.



Dates for your diary

Monday, 23 April 2018

The deadline for CIM project proposals, for projects for the 2018/2019 school year is 23 April 2018. It's never too early to begin working on your proposal. Contact Ben or Latifa if you have an idea for an action research project that you'd like to discuss.

Thursday, 17 May 2018

This year's Celebration of Learning will take place on 17 May 2018. This afterschool event, held at Cobham, showcases the work of our 2017/2018 research project teams.

Watch your email for further details.



The garden and terrace were recently completed at West Lodge to make your training experience even more enjoyable. Contact Debbie Howes to book the training room for your next professional development event.

a publication of the Centre for Inspiring Minds

ACS International Schools
West Lodge, Portsmouth Road
Cobham, Surrey KT11 1BL, England

<http://cim.acs-schools.com>

On Twitter [@acscim](https://twitter.com/acscim)

