



**Panellist- Olly Newton, Executive Director, Edge Foundation**

Olly oversees Edge's work on research, policy and Edge Future Learning. He is passionate about connecting researchers, policy makers and practitioners to learn from each other.

Before Edge, he spent ten years with the Department for Education, most recently as Head of Apprenticeship Strategy. Olly is based in Sheffield where he is a governor and Enterprise Adviser for Firth Park Academy and volunteers with the Scout Association.



**Panellist- Jo Clark is the Head of Programmes and Impact at Envision**, a U.K. based charity that uses social action as a vehicle to develop essential employability skills in young people. She is a qualified English teacher with 8 years' experience working in non-selective state schools and 3 years' working for educational charities.

Prior to joining Envision, Jo was the Deputy Head of English at Morpeth School in Bethnal Green. Upon leaving the classroom in 2017, she joined award-winning charity The Brilliant Club where she worked on the Researchers in Schools programme, a unique teacher training route exclusively for those who have completed doctorates.

Jo also launched a fair access programme at Trinity College, Dublin as part of her work with their international sister organisation, AccessEd, as well as supporting staff to launch programmes in South Africa, Botswana, Malaysia, and Hong Kong to help young people from disadvantaged backgrounds progress to university.



**Panellist- Mark Smith is the CEO and Co-Founder of Ada, the National College for Digital Skills.** Ada is the first new FE College in England since 1993. Ada opened in 2016 in Tottenham Hale with the mission to educate and empower the next generation of diverse digital talent. The College now educates a diverse cohort of 500 students and apprentices working with a wide range of industry partners such as Deloitte, IBM, Salesforce, King Games and Bank of America to bring its curriculum to life. The College has recently launched a pilot programme in Greater Manchester. The College regularly achieves the highest grades in the country for its computing qualifications.

Prior to Ada, Mark was a member of the inaugural cohort of Teach First in 2003. He has subsequently worked for Lloyds Banking group in the UK and South Africa, and helped establish a school in Uganda. He graduated from Harvard in 2011 with an interdisciplinary Masters in Education before joining The Future Leaders Trust, an education leadership charity as their Director of Impact.



**Panellist- Kirsty Green-Mann is Head of Corporate Responsibility at Burges Salmon LLP** which is an award-winning independent UK law firm. Kirsty leads on the firm's responsible business strategy across social impact, diversity and inclusion and environmental issues. She has specific responsibility for the firm's Working with Schools programme for which the firm was named a Business in the Community Responsible Business Champion in the 2020 awards.

Kirsty holds a MBA from Cranfield School of Management, is a Fellow of the Institute of Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability and is part of Business in the Community's South West Leadership Board.

**Panellist- Neil Weller MBE Former Partner at Troup Bywaters + Anders**

Neil started his career as an apprentice engineer completing an indentured apprenticeship whilst studying for his degree. Having experienced first-hand the real value and benefits of an apprenticeship, he has always been immensely passionate about the apprenticeship route and providing opportunities for people to enter the engineering industry.



Neil was Managing Partner at Troup Bywaters + Anders between 2007 and 2015 and was instrumental in driving forward the companies Investors in People journey and spearheading an award-winning apprenticeship scheme. Troup Bywaters + Anders apprenticeship programme is recognised as one of the best in the country for an SME having won numerous awards.

TB+A are an IIP Platinum Champion employer guiding other organisations to deliver best practice in People Management and hold the coveted Princess Royal Training Award. This is testament to Neil's continued commitment and drive in the development of the companies' people.

Neil continues to play an active role in TB+A's apprenticeship journey, whilst also chairing the London Apprenticeship Ambassador Network (LAAN), an employer-led member organisation which strives to raise the profile of apprenticeships across London.



**Data Guru- El Wilson, Policy Manager, Edge Foundation**

El leads Edge's policy network in the education field, develops proactive policy responses to current events and interacts with policy makers across the Education sector, Civil Service and Parliament to help shape education policy. Prior to Edge she worked in the Civil Service across a range of different government departments.



**Eleanor Beer, Graphic Facilitator and Illustrator**

Eleanor will be joining us over Zoom from near Cardiff to record the event with an illustration.