

# 16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ELT CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE FOR PRIMARY, LOWER SECONDARY  
AND UPPER SECONDARY STATE SCHOOL  
TEACHERS OF ENGLISH

**ATTENTION  
PLEASE!**

## Engaging Students in an increasingly Distracted World

**22 Novembre 2024 - ore 08:00**  
**Villa Genoese Zerbi - Reggio Calabria**



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YEARS  
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## AGENDA

### 08:00 | Registration

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08:30 | Conference Opening with Patrizia Quattrone & Marco Goso

08:50 | Extremely Small Choices that Make a Surprisingly Big Difference  
with Chris Roland

09:50 | A Journey Through Time:  
Cambridge Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow with Sarah Ellis

10:50 | Updates & Coffee Break

### Workshops

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11:50 | Moving Toward Greater Language Retention

*Jennifer Veit, ih BRITISH SCHOOL RC*

**Integrating Learning and Assessment**

*Simon Brown, Cambridge University Press and Assessment*

**Let's get PhysiCLIL: Integrating Active Learning into your CLIL Lessons**

*Alex Henderson & Helen Clinton, ih BRITISH SCHOOL RC*

12:40 | Creating Language Opportunities in the Classroom

*Chris Roland, ELT Author & Teacher Trainer*

**The Cambridge Exam Preparation Journey**

*Sarah Ellis, Cambridge University Press and Assessment*

**Grab and Go: Low-prep Activities for Teens**

*Anna Fresen & Laurence Wood, ih BRITISH SCHOOL RC*

### 13:30 | Conference Ends

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## KEYNOTES

### **Extremely Small Choices that Make a Surprisingly Big Difference with Chris Roland**

**Abstract:** This is a very practical talk that looks at how small adjustments to whatever task we are doing, be it a speaking activity, an exercise from a book or worksheet or even just a list of vocabulary we are revising, can result in a greater level of learner uptake and a very different feel in the classroom.

We shall cover primary ages and tweens and teens and pay particular attention to tweaks that require either very little planning and preparation, or none at all. This is the stuff that comes for free, as it were, which you can decide to do in the moment and that will improve engagement, productivity, recall, classroom dynamic and morale.

The suggestions will also help you cover your coursebook or syllabus more easily and will be doable with larger groups and in classes where movement may be restricted. Suitable for newer teachers, seasoned veterans and trainers alike. You will go away with handfuls of micro-strategies to try out.

#### **About Chris Roland**

*Chris Roland is a teacher, trainer, ELT author and 'ideas man' based in Seville. He has worked in Spanish mainstream education and the private academy sector and held positions with the British Council in Barcelona and in Damascus. He considers himself an all-terrain 4x4 teacher and trainer, covering all levels and age ranges, including teenagers and young adults, general English, exam preparation and Business.*

*He has published a number of methodology books including *Understanding Teenagers in the ELT Classroom* (2018), which was a British Council ELtons finalist, and *Structuring Fun for Young Learners* (2020), with additional titles to help teachers transition to online teaching. He has also produced a variety of supplementary material for well-known course book publishers.*

*Chris works with teachers on intensive methodology and language development courses, and tutors on the Trinity Diploma and Cambridge DELTA. Known on the conference circuit for his lively and practical talks, he is particularly interested in classroom dynamics, the lesson as event in itself, personalising language tasks, and how we can help our learners remember key words and phrases.*

### **A Journey Through Time: Cambridge Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow with Sarah Ellis**

**Abstract:** This session begins with a glimpse into the evolution of Cambridge English qualifications, highlighting the transition from traditional exams to innovative digital formats that respond to today's learning needs.

Our main focus will be on the renowned Cambridge Handbooks for Language Teachers series, a staple of practical resources since 1979. We'll explore a curated selection of classic activities from the series, discovering fresh ways to revitalise them with AI-based tools and adapt them to engage modern learners in dynamic classroom environments

#### **About Sarah Ellis**

*Sarah Ellis is currently working as Senior Manager, Assessment Services, for Cambridge University Press and Assessment. She is based in Bologna, Italy. Sarah is interested in Assessment, Learning & Professional Development and has an extensive background in teaching, teacher training, assessment and exam management. She has trained teachers on CELTA and DELTA courses and is currently involved in the Cambridge professional development and teacher support programme which provides information, materials and support for teachers and academic directors. She is particularly interested in supporting teachers in developing digital skills and assessment literacy.*



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## Workshops

### 11:50 | Moving Toward Greater Language Retention with Jennifer Veit

**Abstract:** In this session, we will explore a variety of ways movement can be used to enhance learning and increase student engagement.

#### **About Jennifer Veit**

*Jennifer started her teaching career in New York City, teaching primary school music. She holds Master's degrees in Musicology and in Teaching and is certified in the Orff Schulwerk approach, which teaches musicianship through music, movement, drama and speech. She has been with ih BRITISH SCHOOL Reggio Calabria for the past 13 years and is currently the Director of Studies for Young Learners and Very Young Learners. She is interested in multisensory learning, phonics and continuous assessment in the primary classroom. Jennifer lives in Reggio with her husband and two children and enjoys dance, travel and baking.*

### Integrating Learning and Assessment with Simon Brown

**Abstract:** Get ready to transform your classroom with "Unlocking Potential: Connecting Learning and Evaluation for Student Growth." Discover dynamic ways to sync learning and assessment, fueling student engagement and driving real progress. This session will equip you with fresh strategies to spark curiosity, inspire growth, and make every assessment a tool for success!

#### **About Simon Brown**

*Simon has lived in Italy for over 20 years and started working for Cambridge English in 2010 in the role of Development Support Manager. During these 12 years, he has worked in different regions in the south and north of Italy. Prior to working for Cambridge, he began his career in the ELT sector working throughout Italy for over 10 years. Simon is now heading up his new role as a consultant for Cambridge University Press & Assessment for Calabria, Sardegna & Sicily. In his spare time, he likes to enjoy a good game of tennis under the Sicilian sunshine where he lives.*

### Let's get PhysiCLIL: Integrating Active Learning into your CLIL Lessons with Alex Henderson & Helen Clinton

**Abstract:** In this session we'll discuss how CLIL lessons differ from your normal English lessons and how to use active learning activities to plan engaging and effective CLIL lessons.

#### **About Alex Henderson**

*From the North East of England, Alex joined our teaching team in 2021 after completing the CELTA qualification in Newcastle. Since then she has taught a range of students, from primary school children to adults and loves to get involved in the school's events and social media activities. As well as teaching English, Alex specialises in Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL), teaching iGCSE Maths and Biology. Last year she completed a course in CLIL methodology, which she uses to experiment with active learning activities and developing different skills within her CLIL lessons.*

#### **About Helen Clinton**

*Helen has been teaching at IH British School Reggio Calabria for 2 years. She teaches English and Italian to a range of learners including young learners, teenagers and adults. She especially enjoys teaching CLIL subjects, in particular CLIL Maths, to primary and middle school aged learners.*

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### 12:40 | Creating Language Opportunities in the Classroom with Chris Roland

**Abstract:** In this lively session, we shall look at ways to take unexpected things that happen in the primary classroom and turn them into language learning opportunities. The emphasis will be on low preparation strategies that increase the level of dialogue we have with our learners. Suitable for newer and more experienced teachers of primary levels.

### The Cambridge Exam Preparation Journey with Sarah Ellis

**Abstract:** Unlock the secrets to successful exam preparation with Cambridge and discover effective strategies that empower both teachers and students. This workshop dives into ways for guiding learners at every stage of their exam journey, from setting achievable goals to mastering techniques that enhance language skills and boost confidence. This session provides valuable insights into how integrated learning and assessment keep students engaged and motivated.

### Grab and Go: Low-prep Activities for Teens with Anna Fresen & Laurence Wood

**Abstract:** This session is designed for teachers who want quick, effective ideas that require minimal preparation yet maximise student engagement. Join us to explore ready-to-use resources that will save you time while keeping your lessons dynamic and impactful.

#### **About Anna Fresen**

*Originally from South Africa, Anna lived in Scotland for 11 years before relocating to Italy. She is a CELTA qualified teacher with four years of experience teaching in the Italian context. She specializes in teaching teens and adults and is also a Cambridge Speaking Examiner. Anna's teaching philosophy is that engagement and connection are integral parts of the learning journey.*

#### **About Laurence Wood**

*Laurence is a DELTA-qualified teacher of English from the UK who has worked in Egypt and Italy. He has taught a range of levels and ages, but recently has specialised in teaching high-level teens.*

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Please note that the event will be photographed.  
If you have any questions please contact a member of  
the ih BRITISH SCHOOL team.

If you are keen to take your own photos  
and upload them to social media,  
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