

TISSL Presentations

1. "Importance of Generic Skills (soft skills - interpersonal, emotional, etc)"

In 2012, the US National Research Council provided a helpful definition of the oft-used phrase '21st Century skills'. Some are cognitive competencies like problem solving and critical thinking. Some are personal competencies like intellectual openness and work ethic. And some are interpersonal competencies like teamwork, leadership and collaboration. It is rare to find a school that does not promise that it will develop these skills, perhaps as part of the 'holistic development' of every child. But how well do they meet that promise? In his presentation, Professor Tabberer will distinguish between the different skills and he will take a fresh look at what is effective in the ways they are taught. He will advocate an approach to teaching 21st Century skills that goes beyond traditional subject learning and uses a richer language of 'entitlements, challenges, experiences and micro-credentials'.

2. " Keeping up with Technology".

As educators, we can be both excited and frightened by new technology. Professor Tabberer identifies the 'human mindset' as the single most important contribution that good schools and teachers can bring to the task of 'keeping up with technology'. His presentation will attend to what we have learned by introducing portable computers, smartboards, tablets and microelectronics into school before addressing the opportunities that are coming as a result of big data, artificial intelligence, robotics and data analytics. And he will attempt to shift the focus from the hard technology, devices and machines so that, as educators, we talk more about the behaviours we want to see from students and citizens of the future. If we know what we want students to learn, we will be ready to control the technology rather than become resigned to keeping up with it.