

A System in Crisis

Rising absenteeism and exclusions

Teacher recruitment, retention and burnout

Mental health crisis

Widening gap between advantaged and disadvantaged

Performativity and Culture of Comparison

School culture of heavy monitoring and high-stakes accountability

Culture of performativity obsessed with metrics

Bureaucratic high demand

High work-load, stress and psychological burnout

Society of individualism, external validation and increasing isolation

Mental Health: A Bandage on a Broken Bone?

Mental health support that treats symptoms, not causes

The Age of Attention and Inequity

The New Gold Rush: The Race to the Bottom of the Brain Stem

The 'Age of Attention'

In an information-rich world, the abundance of information creates a poverty of attention

Intense competition for people's attention

Constant bombardment of stimuli

How does this play out in our schools?

- Reduced attention spans
- Increased stress
- Mental health issues (anxiety and depression)

The Widening Digital Divide

Systemic inequalities made worse during the pandemic, with disadvantaged students disproportionately affected.

AI is a Gift

AI is a Gift of Boundless Potential

AI has transformative potential

Imagine AI tailoring tutoring to individual needs

In the Hands of This System...

Putting AI into the hands of a broken, metrics-driven culture of performativity.

Not Everything that Counts Can Be Counted

Empathy
Creativity
Curiosity
Imagination

Education at its Best

Moving beyond metrics

Hopeful path forward

Rethinking Education

AI enabling personalised, adaptive learning and ipsative assessment

How we learn

What we learn

How we work

Are We Creating the Next Paperclip Factory?

Will AI drag the education system even further down, intensifying issues of standardisation, performativity, and deepening inequality?

Or can we use AI as a tool to foster creativity, critical thinking, and genuine human connection—and what must change to make this possible?