

ALUARIUM



NEXT GENERATION GLOBAL LEADERS

In partnership with our friends at Horizons, Alvarium hosted its first post-lockdown event on 18th June 2021 at Soho Farmhouse.

More than twenty of our combined NextGen community of entrepreneurs, angel investors and family office investors descended on the Glasshouse for a morning focused on Innovation and Impact investing. Among the esteemed speakers was former Prime Minister David Cameron, who recalled from his time in office, "...when I was in government, I was unashamedly pro Tech". Discussion naturally turned to the Covid-19 pandemic, with the former Prime Minister adding:



"This pandemic has accelerated trends that are already happening... we all need to make the case for how Globalisation can work for everyone"

Following that, guests enjoyed a morning of panel discussions and interviews from a number of leading founders and investors, many of whom shared with us their thoughts on what makes a successful business.

Richard Reed and Ed Wray were in agreement that going into business with friends was a key element to success with diversity also being crucial to creating a better balance for meaningful discussions: "most successful businesses have 3 (or at least 2) founders - you need disagreements to get to the right answer", Richard Reed said.



Riccardo Zacconi, founder of Candy Crush Saga, was able to join us in 2D format to share his experiences as a founder, sharing his truly inspiring story of the struggles he faced at an early stage for King.com before it eventually became one of the most successful games in history. Michael Acton Smith, co-founder of wellness app Calm explained the importance of improving mental health, a highly relevant topic at a time when we are all (quite rightly) placing greater emphasis on our own, and our colleagues' mental health.



“Calm is trying to do what Nike did for fitness but for mental health. If we can fix mental health, we can prevent other health issues downstream”

The overall mood of the day was in keeping with our own views that innovation and impact are and will continue to be two of the most important areas for investment over the coming years, and that the digital disruption accelerated by the pandemic still had a long way to go. To summarise, Simon Patterson of Silverlake: “Tech disruption is only just getting started... (I think) there is still 10-20 years to go”, and these views were echoed from the West Coast with WRG founder Erik Anderson going further to say that the “safest places for the next 50 years were Digital Health, Decarbonisation, Quantum Computing”.



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