CLOTC NATIONAL
CONFERENCE 2026

ENGAGE CONNECT ENRICH

Conference Guide

Council for
Learning Outside the Classroom





Image: Hill End Centre





8:30am to 4:00pm
Thursday 12th November 2026
RHS Garden Wisley, Surrey

PGL Beyond
THE BREAKTHROUGH NETWORK

Experience Education
Student Travel Group

GO APE

ALG
Active
BUSHCRAFT company

Canal & River Trust

Explorers

CONTENTS

03 About the Conference

04 What's On

06 Speakers

08 Workshops

09 Travel & Accommodation

10 Sponsors & Exhibitors

12 Additional Information



Image: Museum of Chelmsford



Image: Andrew Rutter

Learning outside the classroom (LOtC) offers universally available and unlimited opportunities to create meaningful, inclusive and enriching learning experiences for all students. Taking education beyond the classroom walls has been proven to increase engagement with learning, raise aspirations, improve academic outcomes, develop essential skills for life and work, and support children and young people's health and wellbeing. LOtC is a powerful tool in tackling inequalities and breaking down barriers to opportunity by helping education settings build mutually beneficial relationships with the rich array of sites, services, people and communities beyond their gates.

About the Conference

The CLOtC National Conference is an event dedicated to learning outside the classroom, bringing together teachers, school leaders, educational providers, researchers, policymakers, and sector partners for a day of inspiration, collaboration, and professional learning. This year's theme, **Engage, Connect, Enrich**, celebrates the transformative power of learning beyond the classroom. Through inspiring keynote speakers, interactive workshops, panel discussions, and opportunities to network, the conference will explore how high-quality LOtC can engage learners, connect them with their communities, the natural environment, and the wider world, and enrich the lives of all children and young people.

The conference provides an opportunity to share experiences, discover innovative approaches, and be part of the growing movement to ensure every young person can benefit from meaningful LOtC.

The Venue

We're delighted to be hosting the CLOtC National Conference 2026 at RHS Garden Wisley, one of the UK's most celebrated horticultural gardens and the flagship site of the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS). The day will be centred around RHS Hilltop, the RHS's state-of-the-art home of gardening science. Here you'll find the Garden Room, where our keynote speakers and main conference sessions will take place, and The Hub, home to our exhibition zone - an ideal place to meet sponsors and exhibitors, discover new resources and make valuable connections. Throughout the day, you'll also have the opportunity to experience more of Wisley, with workshops taking place in a variety of indoor and outdoor learning spaces across the gardens.

Discounted RHS Membership

RHS are pleased to offer 30% off an RHS Membership for all delegates to the CLOtC National Conference.

BOOK YOUR TICKET



Image: Brathay Trust

What's On?

In addition to the range of informative workshops for schools/settings and providers, there will also be the opportunity to listen and propose your questions to the speakers, network with like-minded people, and visit the exhibitors.

Engaging Workshops

Delegates will have the opportunity to choose from a range of **workshops**, each designed to be relevant and valuable for both schools and LOtC providers. For schools, the workshops provide an opportunity to discover new ideas, share good practice, and gain practical, actionable advice to enhance your LOtC. For providers, they offer a chance to reflect on current practice, explore new approaches, and consider how to better engage and support schools. Most importantly, the workshops bring schools and providers together to exchange experiences, learn from one another, and build stronger partnerships.

Exhibition Zone

On page 11, see the **fantastic range of exhibitors** that delegates can visit throughout the day.

Inspiring Speakers

Hear from a fantastic line-up of **speakers** who are shaping and championing LOtC across education, research, policy and practice. Gain fresh perspectives, practical insights and thought-provoking ideas to inspire your own work and help shape the future of LOtC.

Networking

There will be plenty of opportunities to meet and connect with other delegates. After the conference, we will share contact details of delegates who have given permission to do so.

Refreshments & Lunch

Tea, coffee and light refreshments will be available on arrival, followed by a mid-morning refreshment break and a buffet lunch. Any dietary requirements provided when booking will be catered for.

BOOK YOUR TICKET

AGENDA

08:30 **Registration, refreshments, networking & visit the exhibitors**

09:15 **Welcome and Opening Address** Garden Room, RHS Hilltop
Dr Anne Hunt (CLOtC)

09:30 **Keynote** Garden Room, RHS Hilltop
Helen Everitt & Ryan Sallows, Oriel High School

10:05 **Department for Education Policy Update** Garden Room, RHS Hilltop
Eve Colyer, Enrichment Senior Policy Adviser, Jenny Oster Warriner, Enrichment Policy Adviser, and Juanita Shepherd, Nature Strategy and Policy Lead, Department for Education

10:45 **Networking Break** The Hub, RHS Hilltop
Refreshments, networking and visit the exhibitors

11:25 **Workshop Session 1** Various Breakout Spaces
See the workshops on page 8

12:25 **Buffet lunch, networking, visit the exhibitors & tours**
From 13:00 - choose from one of the following:

- RHS Education Tour of RHS Wisley, or
- National Education Nature Park guided walk exploring Habitat Heroes biodiversity activity

13:25 **Keynote** Garden Room, RHS Hilltop
'The Bigger Picture: Lifelong Impact of Time Outside on Children's Eye Health'
Annegret Dahlmann-Noor, Professor of Paediatric Ophthalmology, University College London

14:10 **Workshop Session 3** Various Breakout Spaces
See the workshops on page 8

15:10 **Plenary** Garden Room, RHS Hilltop
Jim Burt, Chair of the Board of Trustees, CLOtC

15:35 **Closing & Prize Draw** Garden Room, RHS Hilltop

16:00 **Conference ends**

BOOK YOUR TICKET

Confirmed Speakers

Helen Everitt

Deputy Headteacher, Oriel High School



Helen has been at Oriel since it opened in 2004. As an Assistant Headteacher, she played a leading role in setting up this new secondary school with her role initially including data and assessment while leading a quarter of the school pastorally and also being Subject Leader for Science. Helen then became Deputy Headteacher with a lead focus on curriculum. Helen currently leads on the Pupil Premium alongside curriculum design, leading the school's ITT partnership and staff recruitment among other varied responsibilities. Helen feels passionately about providing students with the widest range of experiences possible, both within the taught curriculum and beyond it, and with creative opportunities for learning outside of the classroom.

Ryan Sallows

Business Manager, Oriel High School



Ryan is a highly experienced education leader with over 25 years of service across youth services, further education, and primary and secondary schools. His early work in youth clubs inspired a lifelong passion for supporting young people, which continues to shape his leadership today. He is committed to fostering a school culture that values learning beyond the classroom and enriches students' wider development.

> **Helen and I are thrilled to be speaking at the CLOtC conference this year. We have been inspired by so much good practice by schools across the country, and will be sharing Oriel High School's path to becoming a Gold LOtC Mark holder and how important and impactful LOtC has become to our school community.**

Annegret Dahlmann-Noor

Professor of Paediatric Ophthalmology, University College London



Professor Annegret Dahlmann-Noor is a children's eye doctor at Moorfields Eye Hospital, the largest paediatric eye care centre in the world, and Professor of Paediatric Ophthalmology at University College London. She treats a wide range of children's eye conditions and has been published in numerous peer-reviewed journals.
Annegret is passionate about promoting time outdoors for children to support eye health and enhance a wide range of health outcomes. She is an ambassador for CLOtC and will be speaking at the conference on **'The Lifelong Impact of Time Outside on Children's Eye Health'.**

Confirmed Speakers

Eve Colyer

Enrichment Senior Policy Adviser, Department for Education



Eve is a Senior Policy Adviser for Pupil Enrichment at the Department for Education, developing the newly published Enrichment Framework, leading on work with DCMS on the Enrichment Expansion Programme, as well as with MoD on the Cadet Expansion Programme, and across cross-department on links with enrichment and related policy. Her background is in working with a variety of charitable organisations to teach public speaking and debate skills to young people across the country.

> **There is a real excitement and focus on enrichment at the minute. I'm looking forward to seeing the ways that this connects with work that organisations, schools and colleges do to take young people beyond the classroom, and create important and memorable experiences.**

Jenny Oster Warriner

Enrichment Policy Adviser, Department for Education



Jenny supported with the development of the recently published Enrichment Framework and now leads work to embed it across the sector, alongside overseeing the national Building Equal Access to Chess Programme, supporting cross-government collaboration on enrichment policy and coordinating business of state activity.
Her background is in communications at the Department for Education and the charity sector, including work for a mental health and learning disability housing association. These experiences have shaped her strong commitment to inclusion and ensuring all children and young people can access high-quality enrichment opportunities that help them to thrive.

Juanita Shepherd

Nature Strategy and Policy Lead, Department for Education



Juanita's role reflects the systemic importance of nature in education in the department, from driving equity of access and connection to nature to developing the skills, attitudes and behaviours needed for its recovery and protection. Juanita works across the fields of education, environment and health so that children in English education settings can achieve and thrive, benefit from and connect with nature no matter what their background and circumstances.

> **I am looking forward to listening to and learning from delegates about their successes and challenges, especially in relation to connecting children with nature. I know I'll leave feeling inspired and re-energised for my work.**

Workshops

Space	Session 1 (11:35am - 12:15pm)	Session 2 (2:10pm - 3:00pm)
Garden Room	**Wind in the Willows and masculine archetypes: Exploring boys' development through story, metaphor and learning outside the classroom.** Walsall Academy	**Making educational visits inclusive for every young person.** PGL Travel
Learning Studio 1	**Using local railways for learning and for engagement and extending learning beyond the classroom.** Southeast Communities Rail Partnership	**Managing the big occasion: Resilience, pressure and life skills through sport.** Manchester United Foundation
Learning Studio 2	**How a specialist school uses community and LOtC to help every learner thrive.** The Loyne Specialist School	**From archive to artifact: The power of treasures in unlocking history.** The National Archives
Clore Learning Centre	**Queer ecology for teens: Creating inclusive connections to nature and learning.** The Hive	**Inclusive LOtC in action: From specialst provision to shared learning experiences.** Abbey Court School
Tulip Tree Room	**Sacred spaces, curious minds: Using cathedral visits to bring learning to life.** Cathedrals Together	**Breaking barriers and building trust with underrepresented and underserved groups in LOtC.** Equalinks/Muslim Youth Alliance
Oakwood Room	**The power of theatre in education, enrichment and inclusion.** Disney Theatrical Productions	**Making science matter: Mars rover - connecting coding and engineering to real-world contexts.** National Space Centre
Outdoor Area 1	**Sharing lessons from creating a purpose-built SEND-inclusive zoological education.** Woburn Safari Park	**Global journeys: Using travel to build international connections, open minds and broaden horizons.** Projects Abroad
Outdoor Area 2	**Delivering nature, outdoor and adventurous activities in engaging curriculum contexts.** Surrey Outdoor Learning and Development	**Maximising the impact of day visits and residential experiences.** Field Studies Council
Outdoor Area 3	**From learning to action: Using LOtC to build citizenship and civic engagement.** Nature Days	**Measuring what matters: Evaluating the impact of educational visits.** EVOLVE Advice
Greener Skills Garden	**Gardening for wildlife: Hands-on habitat boosters.** RHS	

READ THE FULL WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS



Image: The Roman Baths

Travel & Accommodation

By Train

For those travelling by train, the nearest mainline station is Woking railway station, which has fast and frequent services from London and surrounding areas.

Free Bus Transfer

We are pleased to offer a free coach transfer for conference delegates thanks to Allenby Coach Hire. This service will run from Woking railway station to RHS Wisley at 8am on the morning of the conference, with a return journey at 4:10pm at the end of the day.

Delegates will be able to book a place on the transfer service at the same time as selecting their workshops.

By Car

RHS Garden Wisley is conveniently located just off the A3, close to Junction 10 of the M25, making it easily accessible from across the UK. Follow the brown tourist signs for RHS Wisley as you approach the garden. The venue postcode for satellite navigation is GU23 6QB. **Free parking is available.**

Hotels

The following hotels are RHS Garden Wisley partnered accommodation and offer 10% off the best flexible rate for delegates to the CLOtC National Conference:

- Brooklands Hotel
  Brooklands Drive, Weybridge, Surrey, KT13 0SL.
- The Talbot Hotel
  High Street, The Green, Woking, Surrey, GU23 6BB.
- Hilton Hotel
  Seven Hills Road, Cobham, KT11 1EW.

Other hotels near to RHS Garden Wisley

- Premier Inn Cobham Hotel
  Portsmouth Road, Cobham KT11 1BW.
- Half Moon Inn
  High St Ripley, Woking, GU23 6AN.
- The Travelodge Woking Central
  Oriental Rd, Woking GU22 7PJ.
- Double Tree by Hilton
  Victoria Way, Woking GU21 8EW.

Sponsors

Sponsorship and support are critical to the success and delivery of this event, and allows teachers and other school staff, local to the venue, to attend the conference for free. Thank you to the following organisations who have sponsored this event.

Experience Education

Experience Education has enriched 1.5 million young lives in 100 countries over 50 years. Their five brands offer unique school travel experiences: JCA (UK activity residentials), World Challenge (expeditions), Edwin Doran Sports Tours (sports tours), Travelbound (curriculum tours), and SkiBound (school ski trips).

Go Ape

Welcome to the ultimate outdoor learning experience with Go Ape school trips! With 37 thrilling locations spread across the UK, their adventures offer an unrivaled blend of excitement and education. As proud recipients of the LOtC Quality Badge, they ensure that every moment is not just an adventure but a valuable lesson too.

PGL Beyond

PGL Beyond is a network of four brilliant brands: PGL, NST, ESTO, and StudyLink Tours who are united in a shared mission: to spark breakthroughs in young people through transformational experiences that go beyond the classroom.

Active Learning Group

The Bushcraft Company and Active Learning Centres ignite young people's potential through real outdoor adventures across 7 UK centres. From wild woods to towering mountains and dramatic coastlines, students grow in confidence and resilience, develop teamwork and communication skills and benefit from boosted wellbeing through powerful, hands-on outdoor learning experiences.

Canal & River Trust

The Canal & River Trust is the charity who looks after and brings to life 2,000 miles of waterways, because they believe that life is better by water. 'Explorers' is the Trust's education programme aimed at children aged 5-11. They inspire children's learning by connecting them to our canals and rivers.

There are still opportunities to advertise in the delegate brochure (prices start from £150). Contact Emily Carlill, Project & Events Officer, at emily.carlill@lotc.org.uk.

Exhibitors

Located in The Hub at RHS Hilltop, the Exhibition Zone will be a vibrant space where you can discover the latest ideas, resources and opportunities to enhance your LOtC. Throughout the day, you'll have the chance to meet a diverse range of organisations, charities, educational providers and suppliers, all passionate about supporting high-quality learning experiences for young people.

The Exhibition Zone is the perfect place to ask questions, get expert advice, make new connections and gather inspiration. Be sure to take time between sessions to explore the stands, speak with exhibitors and discover how they can support your setting or organisation.

BOOK YOUR TICKET



Image: Woburn Safari Park

Additional Information

ABOUT CLOTC

The Council for Learning Outside the Classroom (CLOtC) is the charity that champions all learning that happens beyond the classroom. Our work supports educators, schools and organisations who are dedicated to ensuring more young people have opportunities for life-changing learning experiences indoors or outdoors, close to home or far away.

BOOK YOUR PLACE

Tickets are now available to book. Discounted tickets are available for CLOtC Members and members of the Outdoor Education Advisers' Panel (OEAP).
We are also offering a two x teacher discounted rate.
Book your ticket at **www.lotc.org.uk**.

SPONSOR A FUTURE CONFERENCE

If your organisation shares our commitment to enriching the lives young people through education, we'd love to hear from you. Sponsorship offers a unique opportunity to raise your profile, build meaningful relationships across the sector, and demonstrate your support for LOtC.

YOUR VISIT TO RHS GARDEN WISLEY

RHS Garden Wisley and CLOtC are committed to providing an accessible and welcoming experience for all delegates. When booking a conference place, let us know about any access requirements so we can support wherever possible. The conference takes place across a large site so be aware that there is a reasonable amount of walking between RHS Hilltop and some workshop locations. We also encourage delegates to review the RHS Wisley Accessibility Guide.
A small, unstaffed area will be available for delegates to leave coats and bags during the day -. please note that this is unsecured and items are left at the owner's risk.

CONTACT US

For any questions about the conference, contact Emily Carlill at **emily.carlill@lotc.org.uk.**

CONNECT

www.lotc.org.uk

Facebook Instagram Linked In

BOOK YOUR TICKET