

President's Introduction to the 2017 Conference

A very warm welcome to our second annual conference at this prestigious, historic venue of the Barbican. I would firstly like to thank the team at the Barbican, our Board of Directors, and members of our Conference panel without whom we wouldn't be here today.

When I started tutoring more than eight years ago, getting my first few students, I was wondering where in the world all the other tutors were. Tutoring 1-to-1 seemed then to be quite a solitary existence; the places and times might change but the solitary existence was pretty much a constant. Now, eight years on, the situation is very different; the tutoring sector is now maturer, wiser and more organised, with more opportunities for everyone to connect and collaborate. With the establishment of The Tutors' Association, this change has accelerated and we are heading towards becoming a genuinely connected community of professionals.

The Barbican itself is famously a community which is inclusive, as well as being a hub for new ideas and innovative activities. I believe that these twin spirits of innovation and community are a perfect match for both our Association and today's event, and that this commonality of experience and purpose will make today even more inspirational and informative.

The Barbican was built as part of Britain's post-war redevelopment. It was built in such a way that its residents would never be overlooked, yet with its concert hall, cinema, theatre and restaurants it is a place where public entertainment and private lives co-exist symbiotically. It was built for the purpose of community; a place where thousands of people

could feel part of something bigger, and a place which continues to evolve and improve over time.

This Association, led by its members, is evolving and improving too. Today is testament to that, an opportunity for us to come together, to learn together and to build each other up; to be better - indeed to be the very best that we can be.

We have a diverse programme of talks reflecting the diversity of our profession. Whether it be tutoring children or adults, online learning, supporting children with special educational needs, supporting students in their transition to university study, we all have different stories to tell. There is also the role tutoring has to play in social mobility and in social enterprise to consider, as well as the overarching theme of motivating and empowering others to be confident in their learning and self-study. I am not sure that this diversity is yet fully recognised and understood by those outside our profession, but it is my profound hope that events like these, and an Association like ours, will help remedy that situation.

Whichever talks you choose to listen to, the stories that we have to share, I hope you will leave here feeling inspired and energised - and that you will carry that inspiration and energy with you and share it with your students and your colleagues alike.

Adam Muckle MTA

President