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Humans at the heart of education: A new framework to unlock our potential

As we approach 2030, we find ourselves in a profoundly different world from the one the UN Sustainable Development Goals imagined in 2015. Where should we focus in the increasingly urgent discussions on what's next?

Last year, we shared a report on the possibilities if we put humans at the heart of education. That report was the beginning of a conversation – and we've been speaking to government leaders, educators, learners, partners and those who support them to dig deeper.

Three advances are transforming education

Across our discussions, work and research, we're seeing three advances shaping education most significantly:

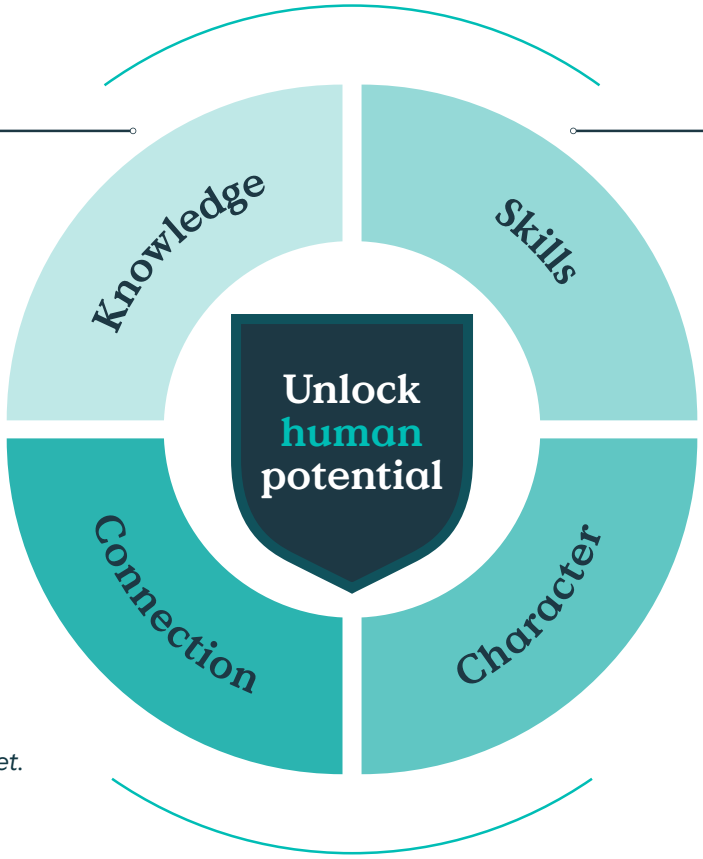
1. **Advances in AI**: AI has huge potential to amplify human capability, creativity and productivity... if we can guide the world to embrace it effectively. For us, that means incorporating AI into education systems while always keeping humans at the heart of teaching and learning.
2. **Advances in neuroscience**: we now have an increasingly rich picture of people's remarkable capacity to learn, adapt, grow and contribute throughout their lives. We can and should use this to nurture resilient lifelong learners, who can thrive in unpredictable futures.
3. **Advances in sustainability**: the challenging impact of the climate crisis on education is undeniable. But education is where we'll find the solutions. Stressing how we are connected with each other and the natural world in classrooms will help learners become the scientists, stewards and sustainability-conscious citizens the world urgently needs.

The Future of Education Framework: Four learning dimensions to unlock human potential

As these advances transform our world, it can feel as though education systems need to do more and more. Research highlights hundreds of skills young people are likely to require for the future. More information is available than ever before.
A growing list of priorities, from climate education to digital fluency, is rightly gaining attention.
At the same time, too many children are still out of school, and too many others leave with a sense of failure and without basic literacy skills. Surrounded by possibilities and urgency, how do we connect the dots to create a clearer map for developing education systems?

Drawing on conversations across the globe and existing approaches, we believe that the starting point has to be how to unlock human potential. We've developed this Future of Education Framework to set out four connected dimensions to help focus that work:

Future of Education Framework



Structured understanding of facts and concepts in our complex world.

Strong foundations in literacy, numeracy and learning across key subjects.

Practical abilities to apply that knowledge and take action.

Creative, complex thinking, self-management, digital and interpersonal skills and executive functions.

Learners' connections with themselves, others and the natural world. These provide purpose. They are an anchor for all action.

Wellbeing, belonging, relationships, citizenship and stewardship of the planet.

Learners' moral and ethical core, shaping – and shaped by – actions over time.

Integrity, responsibility and judgment.

Humans at the heart of education

The specifics of these dimensions will look different for every individual and community across the world, and they should – this is part of our collective humanity.

While AI may be capable of parts of these dimensions, we still need learning to balance all four to realise human potential. Each one builds on the others and is essential to equip learners and societies to thrive.

Join the conversation

This framework is not final. It reflects our evolving approach, and over the coming months we will be putting it to the test with government leaders, employers, educators, teachers, learners and communities.

We want you to put it to the test with us. If you're an employer – does it reflect what you're looking for? If you're a government leader – what does this mean for policy and practice? And if you're a teacher, student or parent – what does this feel like in the classroom?

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