



Professional Development Conference Summer Schools

**Tuesday 17th February, 2026, 10:00 – 15:45
Online**

10:00 - 10:15 Registration and Welcome

10:15 - 11:00 Running an Effective Summer School (Part 1) - Louise Whittaker, Arts University Bournemouth and Alice Smyj, University of Birmingham

This session offers a practical framework for planning, delivering, and evaluating summer school residentials. Designed for professionals working in recruitment and outreach, it will share best practice and actionable insights to enhance programme impact and participant experience. Key topics will include accommodation logistics, safeguarding and risk management, parental engagement, and effective staffing. Through real-life case studies and scenario-based discussions, attendees will gain the confidence and tools to navigate challenges and deliver high-quality residentials that support access and participation goals.

11:00 - 11:15 Comfort Break

11:15 - 12:15 Running an Effective Summer School (Part 2) - Louise Whittaker, Arts University Bournemouth and Alice Smyj, University of Birmingham

Session Continues

12:15 - 13:15 Lunch

13:15 - 14:15 Developing Possible Selves Through Residential Experiences - Alex Grant, Villiers Park Educational Trust

Join Alex Grant, Assistant Director at Villiers Park Educational Trust, as they share how Villiers Park and the University of Bath use the 'Possible Selves' framework as a guiding principle for a Year 10 residential. Over the past three years, this residential has welcomed over 250 students from under-represented backgrounds and forms part of a wider, multi-intervention, longitudinal programme.

14:15 - 14:30 Comfort Break

14:30 - 15:10 Summer Schools and Behaviour Management - Sander de Groot, MADE Training

Create a calm, engaging, and productive summer school environment with this practical training session. Designed for teachers, activity leaders, and support staff, this workshop explores proactive behaviour strategies tailored to the unique dynamics of summer programmes. Delegates will learn how to set clear expectations, build positive relationships, prevent low-level disruption, and respond confidently to challenging situations. The session is packed with tangible techniques and guidance that will help you to feel prepared and in control from day one.

15:10 - 15:45 Networking and Discussion

15:45 Finish

*Please note this programme is subject to change