

## National Annual Teachers Conference

**Saturday, 7 February 2026 – Manchester Grammar School**

Time	Event
From 09:30	<b>Registration</b> Exhibition open – Tea, Coffee and refreshments served
10:30	<b>Welcome</b> Dr Martin Boulton, High Master, Manchester Grammar School
10:40	<b>ISMLA AGM Vision and Announcements</b> Adèle Venter, Chair of ISMLA
11:00	<b>Keynote Address</b> <b>Rt Hon. Sir Nick Gibb</b> Modern Languages at a Crossroads: The Role of Independent Schools in Securing the Future
11:30	<b>Panel Discussion – “Quo Vadis?”</b> Charting the Way Forward: Collaboration, Innovation, and Impact in Modern Language Teaching
12:00	<b>Keynote Presentation</b> <b>Sara Davidson</b> Being a Hub Leader and the Benefits of Taking Part in the National Modern Foreign Languages SCITT Programme
12:30	<b>Lunch and Exhibition</b>
13:30	<b>Subject-Specific Teach-meet</b> Discussion of current innovations and preoccupations in: French • German • Spanish • Mandarin • Junior School
14:30	<b>Keynote Presentation</b> <b>Jonathan Mumford</b> The Power of Recorded Audio Feedback: Creative and Innovative Ways to Use Verbal Feedback Inside and Outside the Classroom
15:30	Conference Close

### Patrons

## Speaker Profiles

### Rt Hon. Sir Nick Gibb



#### **Modern Languages at a Crossroads: The Role of Independent Schools in Securing the Future**

Sir Nick Gibb has been one of the most influential advocates for language learning in recent decades, serving for over ten years as Minister of State for School Standards. During his tenure, he oversaw significant reforms that strengthened the place of modern languages in the curriculum, helping to re-establish them as an essential part of a well-rounded education. A lifelong believer in the power of languages to broaden horizons and foster cultural understanding, Sir Nick has worked tirelessly to promote early language learning, curriculum coherence, and teacher training in MFL. In this keynote, he reflects on the current crossroads for Modern Languages and the vital role independent schools can play in securing their future.

### Sara Davidson



#### **Being a Hub Leader and the Benefits of Taking Part in the SCITT**

Sara Davidson is a passionate German teacher and Head of German at Oundle School, where she leads a thriving and dynamic department. A former Chair of ISMLA, Sara has long been an inspiring voice in the national conversation on language teaching, known for her commitment to supporting teachers and championing collaboration across sectors. As a Hub Leader for the School-Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) programme, she shares her practical experience of mentoring new teachers and building strong professional networks. Her session highlights how engagement with SCITT can enhance teacher recruitment, retention, and excellence in Modern Languages.

### Patrons

## Jonathan Mumford



### **The Power of Recorded Audio Feedback**

Jonathan Mumford is an experienced teacher, consultant, and Professional Tutor in education, as well as a current examiner. With 17 years of experience teaching French and Spanish in a mixed comprehensive school in Merseyside — including eight years as Head of Languages — he has built a strong reputation for achieving excellent GCSE and A Level results. Jonathan is widely recognised for his high-quality teacher training and his work in raising standards in Language departments. He delivers engaging, research-informed CPD sessions to teachers across the UK on themes such as engagement, behaviour, and creativity, all with the aim of enhancing the language learning experience for both teachers and students.

### **Patrons**