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Education Plus
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Education Trends this 2020

Education is in constant flux, especially in this new tech-led era. Pupils are more tech-savvy than ever before, and education leaders have been enjoying the power of EdTech to engage with them for a number of years now. With that in mind, it's important to keep abreast of the trends and topics shaping primary and secondary education in the UK. Technology's pace is relentless, so the onus is on educators to keep up with current developments in order to create better learning environments for their students, and better working practices for themselves. From pedagogy practices to EdTech evolutions, we lift the lid on the top trends to watch out for in education throughout 2020[1].

01 Artificial intelligence in HE/FE and the impact on student retention

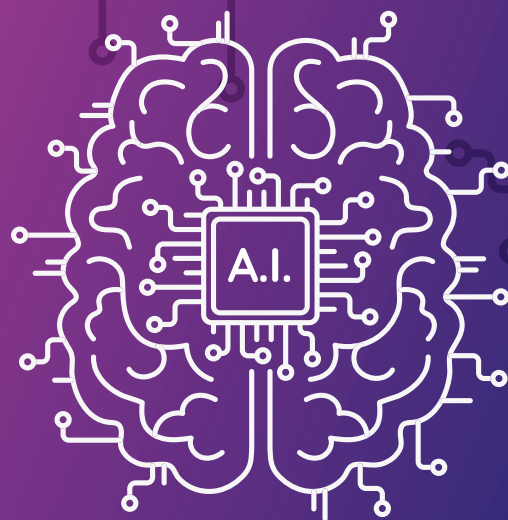| Problems	AI Solutions
Standardized curriculum does not cater to individual needs.	Personalized learning
Limited 1-2-1 tutor time available for university students.	Personal virtual tutors
Grading & assessment is time-consuming, with an over-reliance on multiple choice.	AI can assess open ended questions - and in real time
Large class sizes in K-12 schools means children's questions often go unanswered.	Virtual classroom assistants
Personalized communication is almost impossible due to scale.	Chat-bots can answer administrative questions on the fly from parents, staff and students
Selecting the best students from a large application pool.	AI can short list candidates based on multiple data points
Increasing drop out rates at universities.	AI sentiment analysis
The need to effectively combat plagiarism and ensuring authorship.	Natural language processing can identifying patterns and source facts

Ai is being used across the world in a wide variety of sectors. Now, higher learning is the latest of these to start embracing smart machines to improve student retention[1].

Students chose to leave university for a variety of reasons including financial issues, dealing with family matters, and a dissatisfaction with their academic performance or course content.

When it comes to the latter, early detection of students who are struggling within their studies means early intervention from the university, ultimately decreasing the chance of them dropping out later.

Machine learning can tap into the mass amounts of data that the university has at its disposal to accurately predict at-risk students.

It can then provide personalized solutions to keep these students academically engaged[2].

A.I.

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02 Smartly using current technology

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03 Integration of new technology to complement current infrastructure

While teachers may require a smarter approach to using their existing technology, it is also important not to overlook fresh developments. Integration of new systems into existing infrastructure is a vital consideration in the modern classroom.

04 Teacher workload and retention

The new department for education EdTech strategy places reducing teacher workload at the top of its list of priorities. A recent survey of teacher working hours conducted by the Varkey Foundation found that, out of 35 countries, UK teachers have the fourth longest at 51 hours per week.
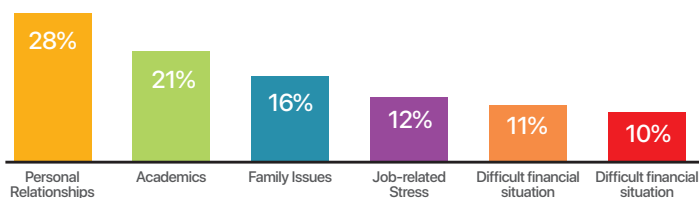
05 Student wellbeing

Student wellbeing and health is in sharp focus in the 21st century. Indeed, rates of anxiety, stress, depression and other mental conditions in primary and secondary-age pupils are rising.
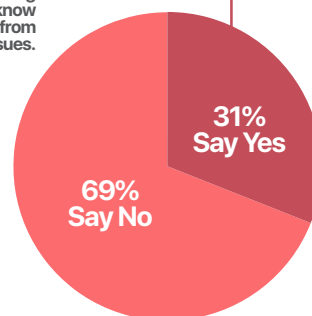

Arab Youth Survey results on mental health

Which of the following, if any, is the biggest source of stress in your daily life?
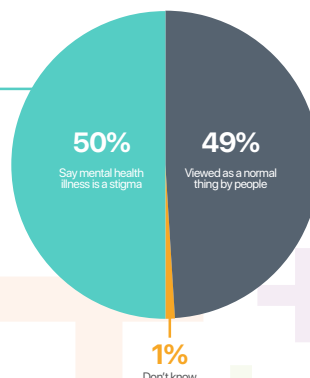
(Ranked by GCC Response)

Personal Relationships	Academics	Family Issues	Job-related Stress	Difficult financial situation	Difficult financial situation
28%	21%	16%	12%	11%	10%

Source: ASDA'A BCW Arab Youth Survey 2019 – Gulf News

One-third of young Arabs say they know someone suffering from mental health issues.

- 31% Say Yes
- 69% Say No

Source: ASDA'A BCW Arab Youth Survey 2019 – Gulf News

Half of the Arab youth say there is a stigma around seeking medical care for mental health issues

- 50% Say mental health illness is a stigma
- 49% Viewed as a normal thing by people
- 1% Don't know

Source: ASDA'A BCW Arab Youth Survey 2019 – Gulf News

Sources:

[1] https://www.bettshow.com/bett-articles/the-five-education-trends-to-watch-in-2020

[2] https://www.qs.com/machine-learning-boost-student-retention/