

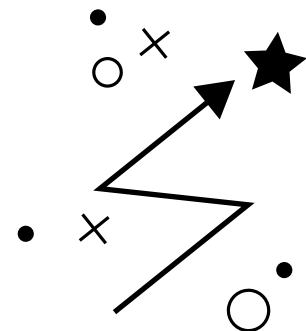
Thrive

SCHOOLS REINVENTED
FOR THE REAL
CHALLENGES WE FACE

Valerie Hannon
with Amelia Peterson

"Thrive offers a compelling analysis that should inspire and deepen the public conversation about education for all our children, here and now, and for the future."

SIR KEN ROBINSON



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“We are in danger of educating a generation of children to become not very good at jobs that robots will do better. Thrive is a brilliant exposé of the failure of mainstream, conventional systems and a persuasive account of why education needs a new sense of purpose: to make us more fully human, creative and empathetic and so together able to shape our rapidly changing world.”

Charles Leadbeater

“H G Wells famously said that civilization is a race between education and catastrophe. Thrive argues with clarity and concision that this is not an empty aphorism. On the contrary, humanity faces existential challenges and radically transforming our dominant systems of education is essential to meet them. That transformation has to begin with reframing the fundamental purposes of mass education and that’s what Thrive sets out to do. In the process, it does more than set out the problems. It presents powerful examples of innovation from around the world that show how education can and must change everywhere. A compelling analysis that should inspire and deepen the public conversation about education for all our children, here and now and for the future they will shape.”

Sir Ken Robinson

“Valerie Hannon never disappoints. What she offers in this book is an honest, affectionate, if sometimes critical analysis of what we need to do if we’re to bring the very best out of the next generation of young people - to generously and imaginatively optimise their potential.”

Lord David Puttnam

“There has never been a more important time than now to debate the purpose and direction for education systems. Clarity of purpose and the courage to take action – both are required. In addition to presenting a solid case for why systems need to change, Thrive also offers pictures of possibilities – real schools in diverse settings that are making the kinds of changes necessary for their learners to thrive in an uncertain world. Each person in our networks will be debating these ideas and learning from the pathfinders.”

Judy Halbert & Linda Kaser

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For Laura and Celia

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PREFACE

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This book arises from discussions with educators, parents, students and employers around the world about new guiding purposes for public education systems. Assumptions about our purpose in education are currently under-examined and out of date.

The concepts of ‘school reform’ put forth by politicians have focused – for understandable reasons – on the ‘how’ (and to some degree the ‘what’) of teaching and learning. For the most part, they have remained within the old paradigm of schooling. This is in part because the perceived risks of change – notwithstanding the strong evidence for the failure and inadequacy of the old industrial model of schooling – still appear to outweigh the perceived benefits. Furthermore, the changes needed to replace this model still appear vague, and lack the necessary rigour and evidence base. Where purpose is re-examined, the answer is usually framed in terms of ‘acquiring the skills to succeed’. But this begs the question: What does it mean ‘to succeed’?

There is no clear narrative or unifying ambition for public education today that both:

- connects with the realities people are experiencing; and
- faces up to what can confidently be said to be on our horizon.

This book sets out the features of the future of our world around which there is strong consensus from scientists and analysts worldwide. These features include environmental, technological, demographic, socio-political, and economic shifts. Taken together, they show that the scale of disruption our species and planet face is so profound that changes are

needed so future generations are prepared to deal with them. From the evidence, we extrapolate a set of three key shifts, or ‘pivots’, that are likely to occur in the lifetime of today’s learners.

In short, we have been so preoccupied with asking the ‘how?’ of education that we have forgotten to ask the question of ‘what for?’ National narratives around ‘economic competitiveness’ or ‘preparing for the knowledge society/digital economy’ can now be seen to be woefully inadequate in relation to the enormous challenges our species faces – some of them existential. All of these will impact our children’s lifetimes, let alone our grandchildren. Reflecting on the scale and direction of these shifts, the book proposes the following:

Today, education has to be about learning to thrive in
a transforming world.

When we examine what it means to thrive, we see that thriving must happen at four interdependent levels, none of which can be ignored:

- global – our place in the planet;
- societal – place, communities, economies;
- interpersonal – our relationships;
- intrapersonal – the self.

When the evidence about the likely trends across these four domains is reviewed, a series of learning goals begin to emerge. Being ‘college and career ready’ is nowhere near good enough. Previous goals for education – where they are enunciated – tend to be at the individual level and/or are predicated on competition for rationed goods (access to HE or to high-paying jobs; or the society’s success in economic competition).

But the evidence suggests that we cannot thrive with these restricted purposes. We need new goals. Designing learning to achieve them will be challenging for educators. But it turns out that this is already being attempted by a number of fabulous educators around the world; if they can do it, so can others – and it would be a lot easier if others joined in.

Moreover, we believe that schools are needed for this task. ‘Techno-solutionists’ argue that ‘schools are dead’; that learning will become ‘disintermediated’ and individuals, armed with Big Data learning analytics and a plethora of digital offerings, will no longer need institutions. They are

wrong. But schools do need to be reinvented as a key part of learning eco-systems; webs of civil society institutions powerful enough to enable humanity to address the problems which both threaten it and offer spectacular opportunities. Schools in diverse settings and conditions are already innovating their foci and their methods to help their learners – not just pass tests, or even get a job – but to thrive.

This book offers no panacea, recipe or ‘programme’. Rather it is a catalyst for serious debate about the purpose of our public education systems. To facilitate such a debate, we must update our analysis of the future our young people face, as well as our collective knowledge of the new educational models already emerging. With this new basis, the work of ‘education reform’ will take on an authentic energy and depth. However, without seriously re-examining the purpose, the needed changes at scale will not materialise.

This new purpose is about how we learn to thrive in a transforming world.

The transformation of our world becomes apparent when we look at analyses and trends about the future. The book is intended to confront educators, and perhaps more particularly, system and political leaders, with the contours of a set of profound shifts, about which environmentalists, business leaders, scientists and technologists are becoming increasingly clear. Education systems have scarcely begun to acknowledge them, let alone begun to respond. Moreover, the year 2016 saw a sea-change across Europe and the US (with global implications) of political culture: the rise of successful populist demagoguery, relying on ‘post-truth’ campaigns, signalling the howl of exclusion and impotence that large sections of those populations experience.

Education continues with the old prospectus: the promise of ‘succeeding’ (gaining better competitive access to the shrinking pool of good jobs) if the right knowledge and skills are acquired. Most writing about the ‘future of education’ ends up with lists – of what students need to learn in order to ‘succeed’ in the future. These get shoehorned in as new outcomes under old efficiency-oriented models of education.

Thrive shifts the focus to what children and young people need to be allowed to experience and do now as part of their experience of school – not to develop a set of abstract skills, but to learn to live in new and better ways, taking charge of the future so they can shape it and deal with its

challenges. Thinking about the future and how the world has already changed, and will change exponentially faster, should direct us towards new purposes for education. Some of these new purposes will be collective, rather than just individual or national.

Children and young people are already facing some of these challenges in their daily lives, but the pressures are set to increase. What is the role of schools in helping them handle these challenges? What do schools look like when they have re-oriented to address them?

This book aims to:

- Set out the evidence about some major disruptions affecting humanity
- Propose a new purpose for education, based on the facts and best predictions about the impact of these disruptions
- Illustrate what is already being done to respond to the challenges these disruptions present, and further actions which can be taken.

The examples we profile in the ‘pathfinder’ chapters are not intended as cookie-cutter recipes. They are deliberately diverse, and we have refrained from over-conceptualising their approaches. We offer them as stimuli for further enquiry, debate and reflection.

Of course, the proposal about fundamental purpose we suggest, and the goals we consider it gives rise to are based on our own perspectives and values in the face of these shifts. They are grounded in the contexts of liberal democracies, which are now more fragile and at risk than in the last 80 years. Not everyone will accept them. They are up for debate and further improvement. But rejection of that purpose should not be intertwined with rejection of the facts about the future and what is possible in education. Because what leaders and the public think education should do is based, whether consciously or not, on what they believe about the world young people will enter. The aim of this book is to update the basis of those beliefs.

You have to have a reason to change. This book provides it.

CHAPTER 1

.....

Why we have to ask ‘why?’

A year or so ago, I was asked to write a piece addressing the question: ‘*What is learning for?*’ My immediate reaction was that it was a very silly question: surely, the answer was obvious?

As I started to reflect, however, I realised that it was anything but obvious. To paraphrase Neil Postman,¹ educators were once known for providing reasons for learning, however, now they become famous by inventing a method. Public debates about education – some of which are hot and polarised – have chiefly revolved around a set of second-order questions:

- what should be taught;
- how it should be taught;
- to whom (who gets access to what?);
- how it should be structured;
- how it should be paid for.

These are all important questions. Perhaps in times of stability and continuity they are the ones to focus on. However, those are not our times.

Our current education system, which emerged in the middle of the 19th century and was designed to serve the needs of the Industrial Revolution, is under intense strain. This is true of most services in which the state plays a key role in providing. In the case of education, the pressure is now acute. There is an increasing perception that the mass education system is failing the public. This perception has given rise to a rash of ‘school reform’ movements² across the world.

The school reform movements are diverse. They range from the view that the existing model of schooling is essentially sound, but can be enhanced by a mix of better trained teachers and greater use of technology; basically, this view argues that ‘school improvement’ needs to be done better. At the other end of the continuum is the view that ‘schooling’ needs to

a real challenge, to challenge one's view, challenging, challengeable, a challenger, to face / stand up to the challenge, mentally / horizontally / vertically / judgmentally / metabolically challenged. Practicum 8.3. Classify the vocabulary relating to Challenging the View strategy into 3 groups relating to the 3 steps of communication strategy (some stock phrases can refer to more than one step), e.g. Semi-formal setting. Two female colleagues are considering a proper school for their children and have different priorities in mind (location vs. teaching standards). setting / target group / degree of familiarity / intentions (e.g. to show your interest in your colleague's concern and to persuade her to consider all arguments besides the territorial one). Listen to a radio interviewer (R) talking to Dr Michael Peterson (Dr) about the rise in the number of people suffering from allergies. Optional exercise (The answers are at the bottom of the page). Decide whether these statements are TRUE or FALSE according to the listening. 1. Experts agree that there is an increase in all kinds of allergies 2. Breast feeding can cause an allergy 3. Too much cleanliness can have a negative effect on our children 4. Some allergies have been proven to be genetic 5. There is an increase in intolerance to certain foods 6. Eating less processed food could help us Reinvent the wheel. Episode 170214 / 14 Feb 2017. Summary. Is Neil wasting time thinking of ideas for today's programme? Feifei thinks he's writing the same old thing - but what's writing got to do with reinventing a wheel? All will be revealed in this programme - if Neil finishes writing it! Transcript. Feifei Hello and welcome to The English We Speak. I'm Feifei. Neil - hi there! I just need to think of an authentic real English phrase to use now. Feifei Oh come on Neil, there is no need to reinvent the wheel! Neil Feifei, you're amazing - to reinvent the wheel - that's a great English phrase. I'll use that in my script. Feifei To reinvent the wheel means 'to waste time trying to create something that has already been made'. Some of the common classroom challenges faced by teachers include lack of teamwork, minimal personal time, working towards long term goals, arguments and student excuses, etc. Addressing these common classroom challenges can not only help to improve teacher retention rate but also enhance success rates of student and the ultimate quality of education. Here we can have a look at some of the top classroom challenges faced by teachers in the present education scenario. A teacher is now accountable for the win percentage of the class, the lines of the student growth indicators, and even the disciplinary factors of the class they handle. Being accountable for a number of roles other than quality teaching is sure to put on a lot of performance pressure on teachers. This challenge needs to be addressed on a systemic level. It starts with kids - getting kids of all backgrounds to see entrepreneurship as a viable career path. They need to have hands on experience, learning through failure and success. I believe every kid should start a business in high school, if not sooner. Recommended For You. Chicago Is Uniting For The Greater Good. We're approaching a time when every business is a tech business and every adult will have periods of self-employment during their career. The startup culture should see this as an opportunity: Being truly inclusive will

But what about the big challenges that are brewing for the future? In 30 years, what might be on the world's agenda to solve? It's impossible to predict, but we can get clues from how current trends in science and technology may play out. Headlines in 2016 (and so far, 2017) have been dominated by never-ending political drama that's been fuelling a "geopolitical minefield" and an "unprecedented geopolitical shift" – whether it's managing unpredictable North Korea, the plight of Syrian refugees, or Britain's transition from the European Union. That's just a taster of what we may face in 2050. What challenges do you think are in store for the human race? Let us know on Facebook, or Twitter. Our mission is to prepare our students to thrive in a fast-paced, unpredictable, and fundamentally international business environment. As our students develop into the global business leaders of tomorrow, they can certainly expect to encounter these 13 key benefits and challenges of cultural diversity in the workplace. By offering a platform for the open exchange of ideas, businesses can reap the biggest benefits of diversity in the workplace. A recent study from Forbes echoed this notion, concluding that "the best way to ensure the development of new ideas is through a diverse and inclusive workforce."

2. Benefit: Local market knowledge and insight makes a business more competitive and profitable. Comments. Reading Challenge. Kindle Notes & Highlights. Quotes. Goodreads helps you keep track of books you want to read. Start by marking "Thrive: Schools Reinvented for the Real Challenges We Face: 13 Keys to Thriving in a Global World" as Want to Read: Want to Read saving list. Want to Read. Paperback, 155 pages. Published May 1st 2017 by Innovation Unit Press. More Details ISBN. What are the challenges people face as the parents of a teenager? How do they face these challenges? Should the parent force themselves to do what their kids like (when trying to spend time with them) or should the kid try to do what their parents like? Douglas Bowker. This is because we cannot predict what will happen a moment from now, and I would rather prepare my kids for the unknown, and to be comfortable with the uncomfortable; than continuously shield them or create buffer zones for them. Whether we like it or not, we will not always be there with the kids e.g when they are at school. Also, unplanned events such as sickness, divorce or even death sometimes happen; so I personally believe in setting up the kids to be as self-reliant and independent as possible.