

Lifelong Learners: Journeys of Curiosity, Collaboration and Imagination

Weekend Course 2022 - Frequently Asked Questions

- **I've never been to a weekend course before so won't know anyone**

There will be many people in this situation, but we are a friendly bunch. Join a group and introduce yourself. Talk to the person you are sitting next to. You will soon get to know people. Our favourite questions to start with are 'Have you travelled far to be here?' 'What context do you work in?' 'What optional sessions have you booked onto?'

- **What do I do when I arrive?**

The SLA Welcome desk is right next to the conference entrance. There you will meet some of the SLA staff who will give you your personalised folder of information for the weekend. This includes reminding you of your preferred optional sessions and the full programme. Refreshments and toilets are close by if needed.

- **When can I check into my room?**

Keys will be available from afternoon break onwards for fully residential delegates from the Welcome desk. Simply state your name and sign for your key.

- **Can I leave my luggage somewhere beforehand?**

Yes. This will be stored safely until you collect your room key. On the Sunday rooms need to be vacated by 11am and again you can store your luggage.

- **Are meals included?**

Yes. From Friday lunch to Sunday brektime and your indicated dietary preferences have been noted. Sunday lunch is not included and apart from a glass of wine at the sponsored drinks events and dinner you will have to cover your own drinks at dinner and at the bar.

- **What do I wear?**

We want you to feel comfortable and relaxed all weekend so feel free to wear what you like.

There is no 'formal' dress code for dinner on Friday / Saturday but feel free to use this as an opportunity to bring out the glad rags – after so much time at home then this is your ideal excuse to get dressed up!

- **What can I do on the Eventsential Platform?**

Session information (then recordings once available) will be accessible via the Eventsential platform from RD Mobile which you can use on mobile app or desktop. The full programme of speakers and exhibitors will appear on the platform and you will be able to interact with other delegates and exhibitors via the platform.

Recordings of sessions along with resources and links will be available 3 weeks after the physical conference.

Content will be available for you for a full 2 months afterwards so you can watch and re-watch at your leisure. (Ideal for the optional sessions you couldn't attend). Day delegates will only have access to the content for that day.

- **Will I have chance to network with other delegates?**

There will be plenty of opportunities to chat to each other – a list of fellow attendees (who have given permission) will be on the Eventsential platform and everyone will have badges provided. There are plenty of coffee breaks and time between sessions and the bar will stay open until 10pm on Friday and Sat. There is large foyer areas with sofas which are perfect for meeting up.

You can also message delegates through the Eventsential platform before and after the weekend. Ideal for arranging to meet in the venue or for continuing the learning conversation.

- **How will I navigate around the venue / find the room I need to get to?**

There will be clear signage around the venue to direct you to each room – there is also a layout map in your delegate handbook. There will also be someone at the welcome desk at all times to help you out.

- **Will I be able to purchase books by the author speakers and have them signed?**

Yes. Norfolk Children's Bookshop will be selling books by the featured authors which you can purchase and ask the authors after the events to sign them. Start saving now!

- **I need a taxi to or from the hotel...**

Hotel Reception will be able to help with local Taxi companies (a quick google search found the following

Elegant Taxis 01233 367267 <https://www.eleganttaxi.uk/>

Prestige Taxi Ashford Kent 07943 201199

The hotel reception will be able to help with any queries about your room or help

- **What is the exhibition?**

These are companies who work with school libraries bringing information on their services to Ashford. So if you've always wanted to find out about a product but not had time to enquire, now is your chance.

- **Escape the exhibition** will give you a chance to discover the companies in the format of a fun, interactive game. There will be rewards! Many publishers will have book proofs to give away. You may want to allow spare space in your luggage to carry these home!
- If you have any questions over the weekend please do ask any of the SLA staff or Trustees you will see around.

Hotel Floorplan



Sessions will take place in the Kent Suite.

The exhibition is located in the Canterbury Suite and will be open from 12.00 on Friday till 17.00 on Saturday.

Our Weekend Course bookshop, kindly provided by Norfolk Children's Book Centre, is located in the Courtyard Suite and open 12.00-17.00 on Friday, 9.00-17.00 on Saturday and 9.00-10.45 on Sunday.

Breakfast will be served in the hotel restaurant from 7am. Other meals will be in the Kent Suite.

