

Nature Education Conference

Uniting Education,
Nature and Natural
History for the Next
Generation

Friday 20 March 2026



MOUNT
KELLY
NATURE



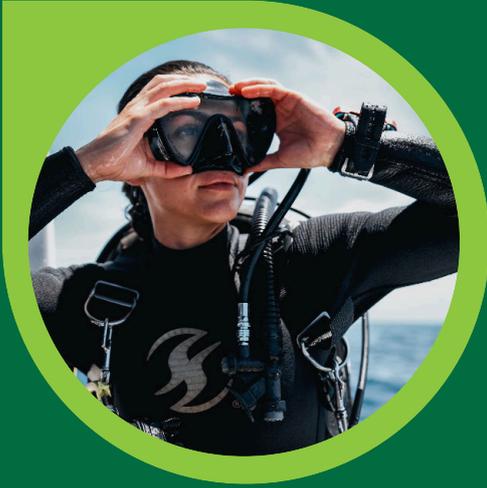
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Nature Education Conference

Keynote Speakers

Lizzie Daly - Wildlife Biologist, Explorer, TV Presenter, Filmmaker and Author

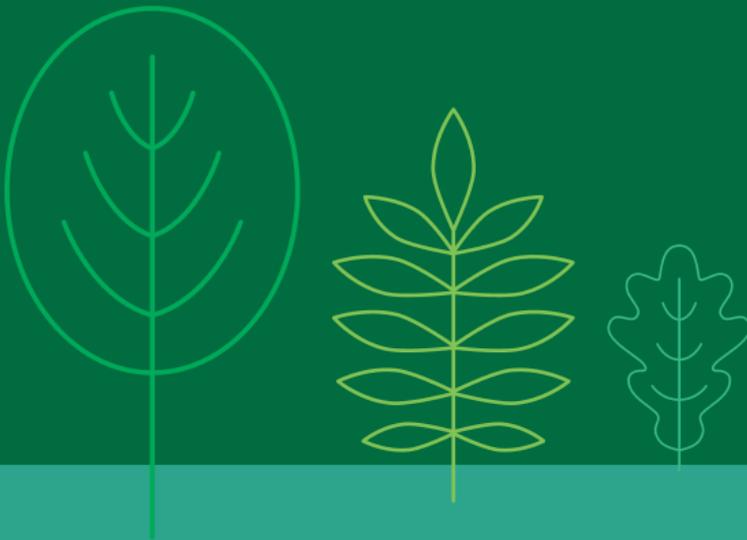


Scientist, explorer, presenter and filmmaker Lizzie Daly is known for her adventurous spirit and powerful science storytelling. A familiar face on BBC, Sky and Animal Planet, she presents major wildlife series including Deep Dive and Jaguar Journals, often filming her own content in extreme locations from the Arctic to the Amazon. Alongside broadcasting, Lizzie is a conservation scientist completing a PhD using animal-tracking technology, an ambassador for leading environmental charities, and an academic at Swansea University. An ultramarathon runner, diver and climber, she is also a sought-after host and keynote speaker, inspiring audiences worldwide to protect the planet and push their limits.

Photo: Big Wave Productions | Blue Ant Media

Ruth Carter - Stakeholder Relationships Manager Cambridge OCR

With over 20 years' experience in curriculum, assessment and qualifications, Ruth works closely with universities, employers, professional bodies and subject communities to ensure education remains relevant and impactful. She leads national work on Nature, Environment and Sustainability Education, including the new Natural History GCSE, and chairs multiple advisory boards supporting environmental education and inclusion.



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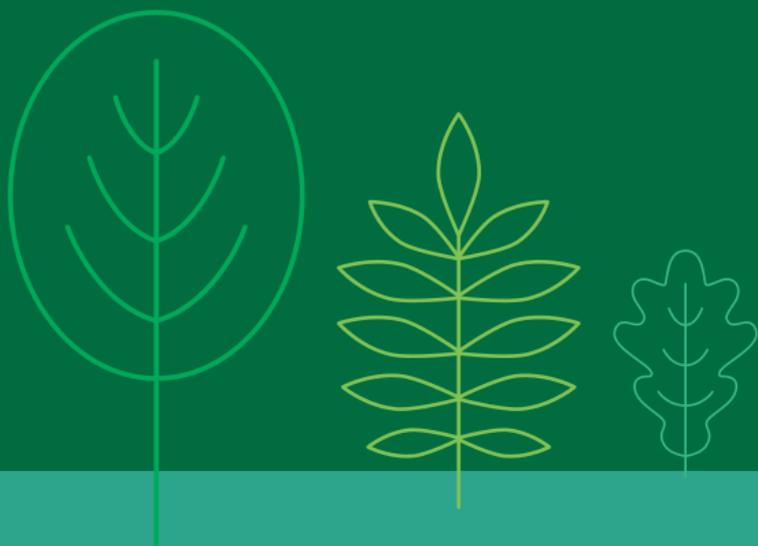
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Programme and Speaker Details

- 08:30 Exhibitors arrive
- 09:00 Networking Breakfast
- 10:00 Opening Address - Guy Ayling, Head Master | Mount Kelly
- 10:10 KEYNOTE SPEAKER - Lizzie Daly | Wildlife Biologist
- 10:40 Katy Kelly & Kim Polgreen - Mount Kelly Nature Project
- 11:20 KEYNOTE SPEAKER - Ruth Carter | Cambridge OCR | GCSE Natural History
- 12:10 BREAK
- 12:40 Dr Nicola Quick - Biodiversity Project at Mount Kelly
- 13:10 Genevieve Boast - Thomas Franks | Group Head of Sustainability
- 13:40 LUNCH
- 14:40 Octavia Midgely - Environment Bank
- 15:10 Rachel Musson - ThoughtBox Education
- 15:40 Derek Gow - Combeshead Rewilding
- 16:10 Richard Irvine & Ella Boston - National Education Nature Park
- 16:40 Panel Discussion
- 17:00 Final Address & Networking



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Speakers

Guy Ayling - Head Master
Principal of the Mount Kelly Foundation

As Head Master of Mount Kelly, Guy leads the school with a clear commitment to academic ambition, character development and active education. Passionate about nurturing confident, compassionate young people, he champions opportunity beyond the classroom, from sport and outdoor learning to creativity, leadership and service.

Dr Nicola Quick - Lecturer in Marine Conservation
University of Plymouth

With over 20 years' experience in science education and outreach, Dr Quick has taught and mentored learners from primary to PhD level in the UK and US. Her work includes developing hands-on programmes, advancing girls' participation in science, securing grant funding, and leading biodiversity research projects with schools, including Mount Kelly's Royal Society study.

Octavia Midgley
Environment Bank

With more than 15 years of experience in environmental and ecological roles. At Environment Bank, Octavia has led a large ecology team through significant business growth, developing and implementing new strategies for surveying, habitat management and product development, and continues to oversee the growth of the BNG product.

Rachel Musson
ThoughtBox Education

As a life-long educator and systems-thinker, Rachel is dedicated to fostering holistic wellbeing and flourishing lives. With over two decades of experience as a secondary school teacher, facilitator and curriculum designer, she champions the belief that education can ignite positive change. Using a Triple WellBeing approach, Rachel works with a global network of educators, offering courses and resources to transform how we live, lead and learn. Rachel Musson is the Founder and Director of Education at ThoughtBox Education.



Katy Kelly - Assistant Head
Nature I Mount Kelly

Katy holds the UK's first full-time school leadership role dedicated to embedding nature connection across the curriculum. She leads on outdoor learning and staff development, partnerships with the University of Plymouth, Oxford University and the Royal Society, and oversees research into the impact of nature-rich education on wellbeing, engagement and academic outcomes.



Dr Kim Polgreen
Independent Sustainability Educator

Kim holds a DPhil in Biochemistry and an MSc in Environmental Change from Oxford, and spent 25 years in business as a sustainability leader and education CEO. Now based in Oxford, she leads sustainability projects with schools, is an Honorary Norham Fellow, and researches the educational and wellbeing benefits of nature-based learning.



Genevieve Boast - Thomas Franks
Group Head of Sustainability

With extensive experience in sustainability leadership across the food and education sectors, Genevieve drives strategic action on environmental impact, ethical sourcing and carbon reduction. Her work focuses on embedding sustainable practices at scale, engaging suppliers and school communities, and championing practical, measurable change that supports both people and the planet.



Derek Gow
Coombeshead Rewilding

Derek Gow is a farmer, nature conservationist and author of Bringing Back the Beaver. Based on a 300-acre farm on the Devon-Cornwall border, which he is rewilding, he has played a leading role in the reintroduction of species including the Eurasian beaver, water vole and white stork, and is currently working on wildcat recovery projects.



Richard Irvine & Ella Boston
National Education Nature Park

They support schools across the South West to embed nature and climate within the curriculum through outdoor learning, pupil-led scientific research and whole-school sustainability planning. Working with educators, they build confidence in digital habitat mapping, biodiversity monitoring and climate action, helping improve wellbeing, tackle biodiversity loss and reduce inequalities in access to green space.

