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**YORK  
ST JOHN  
UNIVERSITY**

**School of  
Education, Language  
and Psychology**

# **Consciousness and Education: Why Consciousness Matters for the Future of Education**

**Conference Programme**

**16–17 June 2026**

# Day 1 – Consciousness Beyond the Brain (16 June)

9:30 – 10:00	Registration & Coffee
10:00 -10:15	Welcome & Opening Remarks
10:15 – 11:30	Keynote: Federico Faggin – ‘Consciousness and the Primacy of Inner Experience’ (including Q&A)
11: 30 – 12.00	Coffee
12:00 – 13:00	Dialogue 1: Federico Faggin & Dr Jonathan Allday – Physics, Consciousness & Scientific Frontiers (including audience questions)
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 14:45	Dr Iya Whiteley – Space Psychology and Human Potential: Implications for Meaningful Parent–Child Relationships (35 mins + 10 mins Q &A)
14:45 – 15:30	Prof Kate Adams & Dr Donna Thomas – Children’s Experiences, Spirituality & Wellbeing (35 mins + 10 Q&A)
15:30 – 15:45	Break
15:45 – 16:45	Workshop Round 1 (parallel workshops – e.g. Ron Barnett, Iya Whiteley, Kate Adams, Donna Thomas, Jonathan Allday, Laurel Waterman, Jessica Bockler +++ - each to have their own title and theme )
16:45 – 17:45	Film on Spiritual Awakenings
16:45 – 17:45	Plenary Panel – Q&A from audience
19: 00	Conference Dinner After Dinner Speaker: David Lorimer, Galileo Commission, Scientific & Medical Network





## Day 2 – Consciousness and Education (17 June)

9:30 – 10:00	Arrival & Coffee
10:00 -10:15	Welcome & Framing for Day 2
10:15 – 11:15	Dialogue 2: Federico Faggin & Rachael Summerscales (doctoral student) – Emerging Consciousness Paradigms in Educational Scholarship (including audience questions)
11:15 – 11:45	Morning Break
11:45 – 12:45	Dialogue 3: Prof Ron Barnett & Federico Faggin – Why Consciousness Matters for the Future of Education?
12:45 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00–15:15	Workshop Round 2 (parallel workshops – repeat of Day 1 – i.e. Ron Barnett, Iya Whiteley, Kate Adams, Donna Thomas, Jonathan Allday, Laurel Waterman, Jessica Bockler +++ - each to have their own title and theme )
15:00–15:30	Afternoon Break
15:00 – 15:45	Where to for education about consciousness? A panel discussion of all presenters plus York St John academics. Includes introduction to Consciousness Educators Network.
15:45 – 16:00	Final Words & Thanks – Conference Close

# Speakers

**Federico Faggin** is an Italian-American physicist and engineer best known for leading the design of the Intel 4004, the world's first commercial microprocessor, and for co-founding Zilog, where he created the widely used Z80 chip. He also pioneered Silicon Gate Technology, a key innovation that enabled modern integrated circuits. In later years, he founded several tech companies and now focuses on supporting research into consciousness through the Faggin Foundation.

**Dr Iya Whiteley** is a space psychologist and Director of the Centre for Space Medicine at University College London, specialising in human potential and relationships in extreme environments,. She has related her learning to a profound study of parent-child interaction.

[www.linkedin.com/in/dr-iya-whiteley/?originalSubdomain=uk](https://www.linkedin.com/in/dr-iya-whiteley/?originalSubdomain=uk)

**Professor Kate Adams** is an internationally recognised scholar of children's spirituality and wellbeing, focusing on young people's anomalous, spiritual and imaginative experiences and their implications for education.

<https://research.leedstrinity.ac.uk/en/persons/kate-adams>

**Dr Donna Thomas** is a researcher in childhood studies and children's spirituality, whose work investigates young people's lived experiences, meaning-making processes and holistic wellbeing in educational settings.

[www.lancashire.ac.uk/academics/dr-donna-thomas](http://www.lancashire.ac.uk/academics/dr-donna-thomas)

**Dr Jonathan Allday** is a physicist and science educator known for his accessible writing on quantum theory, particle physics and the philosophical implications of modern physics for consciousness.

<https://paricenter.com/contributor/jonathan-allday>

**Professor Ron Barnett** is one of the world's leading theorists of higher education, widely known for his work on ecological university models, the philosophy of higher education and the role of uncertainty, possibility and imagination in learning.

[www.ronaldbarnett.co.uk](http://www.ronaldbarnett.co.uk)

**Rachael Summerscales** is a doctoral researcher whose work investigates emerging paradigms of consciousness within education, with a particular interest in transformative learning, spiritual development and holistic pedagogies.



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