

# VOICES



## THE QUEEN'S COMMONWEALTH ESSAY COMPETITION 2018





THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY  
CELEBRATING 150 YEARS



# THIS CHRISTMAS HELP US BUILD ON 150 YEARS



For 150 years The Royal Commonwealth Society (RCS) has played a leading role in celebrating our Commonwealth family and promoting the values that define this unique institution of 53 nations and 2.4 billion citizens. We have championed equality, given youth a voice and acted as a trusted convenor of Commonwealth statesmen but we haven't done this alone.

This Christmas, please donate to the RCS so that we can continue our important work in the fields of trade, gender and human rights, environmental conservation and literacy. Your generous support will also enable us to continue delivering pre-eminent Commonwealth events including the annual multi-faith service at Westminster Abbey, attended by Her Majesty The Queen, and the High Commissioners' Banquet.

Through youth empowerment, education and advocacy, the RCS champions human rights, equality, democracy and sustainable development.

[www.thercs.org/support-the-rcs/donate](http://www.thercs.org/support-the-rcs/donate)

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\*See website for full details.



# WELCOME



The past few months have seen the Society host its biennial International Meeting, celebrate its 150th anniversary with a Royal reception at Lancaster House (pages 2-3) and deliver The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition Award Ceremony at Buckingham Palace.

I am particularly thankful to those members of the Society's international network who travelled to London for the International Meeting; we had over 100 delegates attend from every region of the Commonwealth. It was incredibly useful for me to meet with you all and to strategise our future relationship.

I must also take this opportunity to congratulate the winners of this year's essay competition. With over 12,000 entries, it is indeed an incredible achievement for Zahra, Janine, Woon Neng and Floria. The message that particularly resounded from their pieces was one of hope despite significant and real challenges facing the Commonwealth today, particularly those of climate change, education and human rights.

Our work as a Society must continue to address these key issues and I am proud that, through programmes such as The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition (pages 4-7), The Queen's Young Leaders (pages 8-9), The Queen's Commonwealth Canopy (pages 10-11) and the Equality and Justice Alliance, we are playing our part. I firmly believe that the Commonwealth must listen to the voice of young people and civil society in our communities if we are to effect positive change within our unique family of nations.

As a charity, we wouldn't exist without public generosity so please consider donating to the Society this Christmas so that we can continue our important work in the fields of gender and human rights, environmental conservation and literacy.

I wish you all a happy festive season and look forward to working with you all in the New Year.

**Dr Greg Munro**  
Chief Executive



THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY  
CELEBRATING 150 YEARS

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# CELEBRATING 150 YEARS

On the evening of Wednesday 17 October 2018, Lord (Tariq) Ahmad, Minister of State for the Commonwealth and the UN, on behalf of Her Majesty's Government, hosted a reception at Lancaster House to mark the 150th anniversary of The Royal Commonwealth Society.

↑ L-R: Dr Greg Munro (RCS Chief Executive), Dr Linda Yueh (RCS Chair), Lord Ahmad (Minister of State for the Commonwealth and UN), HRH The Duchess of Cornwall, Lord Howell (RCS President), The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland QC (Commonwealth Secretary-General) and Mr Bryan Cassidy (RCS Treasurer).

The reception brought together representatives from Her Majesty's Government, the Commonwealth diplomatic corps, Commonwealth Accredited Organisations and supporters and partners of the Society to highlight the ongoing work of the RCS across a broad range of issues. Coinciding with the conclusion of the Society's biennial International Meeting, representatives from the RCS's international network of over 60 branches were also in attendance.

Guests were welcomed to Lancaster House by a musical performance from One-Drum,

a London-based collective of Ghanaian musicians and performers who, earlier in the year, had welcomed guests to the annual Commonwealth Service at Westminster Abbey (*Commonwealth Voices* April 2017). On this occasion, the group took the opportunity to play instruments from The Gambia, Ghana and Nigeria to mark the November Royal Tour to those countries by Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall.

During the reception, guests were welcomed by Lord Ahmad who congratulated the Society on reaching such a significant milestone and expressed admiration for the Society's work. He commented that the Society's 'longevity is a credit not only to the dedication of the thousands of members, Fellows and supporters who have passed through its door. It is also a testament to their vision and energy, which has enabled the organisation to evolve and adapt to changing times. Your discussions over the last few days demonstrate that the Society remains forward-thinking and purposeful'.

The occasion's Guest of Honour was HRH The Duchess of Cornwall, who has been involved with the Society's flagship education programme, The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition, since 2014.

During his response to Lord Ahmad's remarks, the Society's President, The Right



Honourable the Lord Howell of Guildford PC, announced that the Society was delighted to appoint The Duchess of Cornwall as its inaugural Vice-Patron, joining RCS's Patron, Her Majesty The Queen, in supporting the Society and the promotion of the modern Commonwealth.

Accepting the appointment The Duchess said:

'As the first Vice-Patron of The Royal Commonwealth Society I'm delighted, and honoured, to join you all this evening to celebrate this significant milestone.

Over the past 150 years The Royal Commonwealth Society has done so much to promote, both the value, and the values of the modern Commonwealth. You have championed human rights, democracy and sustainable development over 53 member states. You have much of which to be justly proud.

I particularly wanted to mention The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition, the oldest international writing competition for schools founded back in 1883. As a passionate advocate of literacy across the globe, I am proud to host the prize giving each year on behalf of Her Majesty The Queen. It is a great privilege to meet some of its hugely talented participants, and I very much look forward to seeing this year's winners at Buckingham Palace in November.

Now so far I have travelled to 18 Commonwealth countries which, I know, leaves me a few more to go. But, in a couple of weeks The Prince of Wales and myself will be visiting three more – The Gambia, Ghana and Nigeria to highlight the importance of our Commonwealth ties.

Now, Ladies and Gentleman, as you all know we share a common history, common values and a common language; so as The Royal Commonwealth Society continues its tireless work to improve the lives and prospects of its citizens I look forward, as your newly appointed Vice-Patron, to working with you – but perhaps not for the next 150 years!'



↑ HRH The Duchess of Cornwall meets RCS Branch Members and Associate Fellows; One-Drum perform as guests arrive at Lancaster House; RCS Regional Youth Co-Ordinator for Europe, Hillary Briffa (middle) with RCS Associate Fellows and representatives.

All photos © Fergus Burnett

 **MORE INFORMATION**  
[www.thercs.org/our-work/events/150th-anniversary-reception](http://www.thercs.org/our-work/events/150th-anniversary-reception)



THE QUEEN'S  
COMMONWEALTH ESSAY COMPETITION 2018

# OPPORTUNITY FROM CREATIVE WRITING

As part of their prize, the Winners of The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition are flown to London for a programme of cultural and educational events, designed to highlight the range of opportunities and industries that creative writing can open the door to.

To begin the week, the High Commission for Canada hosted us for an introductory workshop. We discussed the different countries everyone had travelled from and, after identifying similarities across these countries, the Winners created a Country Charter – declaring the topics and issues they thought all countries should focus on.

The Charter included protection for the environment, a more diverse range of subjects and opportunities in education and equality for all members of society. We were then joined by Deputy High Commissioner Sarah Fountain-Smith who listened closely as the Winners explained the Charter – producing meaningful discussion on their hopes for the future. The following day, we were hosted for lunch by H.E. Foo Chi Hsia, High Commissioner for the Republic of Singapore, and discussed the importance of widening participation and promoting the Competition to all young people. This was a unique opportunity for young people to have their say on a global platform and share their experiences with high-level decision-makers, all as a consequence of creative writing.







The Winners expressed an interest in all things theatrical – from transforming stories into scripts, to the props, set and costumes that make up a production; so, we visited the National Theatre. We began our visit with a backstage tour, exploring the carpentry workshop and several theatres before taking our seats to hear Michael Morpurgo discuss transforming his novel *War Horse* into a hugely successful play. After all this we couldn't leave without seeing that night's production of *War Horse*, and we were not disappointed! The performance was incredible and very inspiring, particularly with this year marking the Centenary of the end of World War I. A short walk down the Southbank of the River Thames found us at Shakespeare's Globe, and just in time for a sunset tour. One of the Globe Education Practitioners, Mary, showed us around the stage and shared some Globe secrets, before taking the winners to a rehearsal room to workshop a scene from *Romeo and Juliet*.

As extra prizes for their success in the Competition, eminent authors donated signed books for our winners to read and treasure. Writers such as Malorie Blackman and Anne Fine donated their work; whilst Susan Hill provided books and tickets to *The Woman In Black*, which was a wonderfully well-rounded prize. With all this talk of books, we were delighted to visit the offices of Hodder & Stoughton Publishing House, to learn all about the journey of a book, the different elements required to take a piece from first draft to final copy and hear some top tips for getting published. Feeling

encouraged, we visited the Royal Society of Literature to participate in a creative writing workshop with their youngest Fellow, Chibundu Onuzo.

Of course, no trip to London is complete without discovering the City's most famous landmarks so we made sure to visit the Tower of London and Westminster Abbey. We were also honoured to be shown around the Palace of Westminster by Lord Boateng, and of course, the highlight of our week was the Awards Ceremony at Buckingham Palace, held in the presence of HRH The Duchess of Cornwall. Once all the guests had arrived in the Picture Gallery, The Duchess presented certificates to the winners whilst highly regarded authors such as David Walliams, Nikesh Shukla, Gyles Brandreth and Sharlene Teo read excerpts from their pieces. It was a magical afternoon and a truly once-in-a-lifetime experience for all involved.

To end such a whirlwind week, we left London and headed to Cambridge for some countryside and fresh air. Following a tour of the city, Kings College and Trinity College, we headed to the University Library to see The Royal Commonwealth Society's archives and learn about the process of digitising precious material. It was very special to see pictures and artefacts from Singapore, Pakistan and Canada from hundreds of years ago, and compare them to our lives now.

↑ Meeting H.E. Foo Chi Hsia, High Commissioner for Singapore in the United Kingdom

↪ Winners visit the BBC to record their entries

↩ Meeting Deputy High Commissioner, Sarah Fountain-Smith, at the High Commission of Canada in the United Kingdom

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## In 2018, the Competition received approximately 12,000 entries from almost every Commonwealth country.

Young people wrote on a range of topics under the theme 'Towards a Common Future'. This year's winning pieces addressed issues such as domestic violence, access to education, environmental concerns and inequality across the world with the winners themselves coming from Canada, Pakistan and Singapore.

### Senior Winner



**Zahra Hussain**  
Age 17, from Pakistan

Zahra's short story 'Hues of Red' is a heart-breaking portrayal of child marriage and domestic violence in a traditional South Asian community, yet with an uplifting message of hope for a new generation. She entered the competition as a student of Lahore Grammar School International. On hearing that she had won, Zahra said: 'I'm mostly in disbelief, because it's such a huge honour, but once I get past that I think I'll be incredibly excited'. Zahra said she enjoys writing because: 'Your writing style can be as diverse as you want it to be – it's a very unique kind of freedom, and I absolutely adore it'.

### Junior Winner



**Janine Shum**  
Age 13, from Singapore

Janine's poem 'Our Common World: Two Voices' explores educational inequality through the voices of two 12 year-old girls – one from Afghanistan and one from Singapore. It takes inspiration from the life of Malala Yousafzai, opening with her famous quote 'One child, one teacher, one book, and one pen can change the world.' She is a student at National Junior College, Singapore. As well as writing, she loves creating animations and looking after her dog. Her favourite books include 'A Monster Calls' by Patrick Ness and 'The Giver' by Lois Lowdry, as well as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's 'Sherlock Holmes' series.

### Senior Runner-up



**Ng Woon Neng**  
Age 16, from Singapore

Wong Neng's imaginative short story 'An Odd Company' personifies the competing concepts of wealth, health, freedom and happiness, imagining them sparring in an intellectual battle for supremacy reminiscent of the bickering of Ancient Greek gods. A student at Nanyang Girls' High School, she enjoys: 'living in fantasy worlds and dreaming' through reading and creative writing, as well as the study of real world history. She said: 'I have to admit that the real world, for all its flaws and complexities, holds boundless inspiration too.' Woon Neng is surprised but incredibly grateful to have been chosen as the Senior Runner-Up.

### Junior Runner-up



**Floria Gu**  
Age 13, from Canada

Floria's haunting poem 'Inheritance' paints a vivid picture of a dystopian future in which unchecked environmental devastation has left a scorched and polluted Earth in its wake. A student of the Transition Program at the University of British Columbia, she entered the competition because: 'I wished to practice engaging with global issues, and take advantage of the opportunity to develop my own opinions on the future.' She enjoys writing stories and poems, as well as participating in maths contests. She hopes to pursue a career in science in the future: 'so that I can help engineer new technologies and solve the problems people face'.

### MORE INFORMATION

Find out more about the winners and read their entries: [bit.ly/EssayCompetition\\_2018Winners](https://bit.ly/EssayCompetition_2018Winners)





## 2019 COMPETITION LAUNCHED IN GHANA

In November 2018, HRH The Duchess of Cornwall launched The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition 2019 during a Royal Tour of West Africa. This was the first launch in recent memory to happen outside of the UK and it is hoped will raise awareness of the Competition for children across the region and the Commonwealth.

The Duchess undertook several engagements in support of The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition during the Royal Tour, including a school visit in The Gambia and a literacy event in Nigeria.

During a visit to Ghana International School in Accra, following an event that heard pupils read their gold award winning pieces from 2018, Her Royal Highness launched the 2019 Competition with the theme, 'A Connected Commonwealth'. The Duchess was joined at the launch by the First Lady of Ghana, Rebecca Akufo-Addo; Editor of British Vogue, Edward Enninful; Chief Executive of

The Royal Commonwealth Society, Dr Greg Munro and supporters of the Competition.

The 2019 theme, 'A Connected Commonwealth', calls upon young people to consider how they can work to use cultural, technological and environmental connections for positive change across the Commonwealth and asks aspiring young writers to consider the potential of the Commonwealth in strengthening the vast and varied links between citizens.

For 2019, the Society wishes to hear from all young people across the Commonwealth, regardless of religion, education or background.

### MORE INFORMATION

Full details, supporting resources and the terms and conditions can be found at [www.thercs.org/competition](http://www.thercs.org/competition)

↑ HRH The Duchess of Cornwall and First Lady of Ghana, Rebecca Akufo-Addo with 2018 Gold Award winners.

→ Dr Greg Munro, Chief Executive of The Royal Commonwealth Society attended the launch in Ghana.





# KEEP ON INSPIRING US, QUEEN'S YOUNG LEADERS

As The Queen's Young Leaders' Programme draws to a close in 2019 with the final cohort completing their Award year, we look back over some of the achievements.



The Queen's Young Leaders Programme was set up in 2014 by The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust, in partnership with Comic Relief, The Royal Commonwealth Society and the University of Cambridge's Institute of Continuing Education. The aim was to seek out 240 inspirational young leaders aged 18 to 29 who are changing lives in their communities and countries through their enterprise and social action, and to create a network of talent across the Commonwealth. As the Programme draws to a close, there is a great sense of satisfaction that the original aims have been more than met; and of anticipation in the knowledge that the Commonwealth has a vital network of engaged young adults who have formed a strong community and who are working across the Commonwealth to

strengthen its values and the connections between its peoples.

From the outset, the Programme was designed to be time limited. Each year for the past four years, 60 young leaders have been selected for the prestigious Award, in recognition of the 60 years that Her Majesty The Queen served as Head of the Commonwealth at the time of her Diamond Jubilee. The Award has comprised a year-long programme of high-quality coaching and mentoring, access to the Leading Change on-line learning resource and leadership community and a ten-day residential programme held in Cambridge and London. This all culminates in the unforgettable experience of an Awards Ceremony at Buckingham Palace with Her Majesty The Queen.

From the moment of inception, The Queen has taken close interest in the development of the Programme and of the young people selected for the Award. During her tenure as Head of the Commonwealth, she has

↑ QYL in Cambridge.  
© Queen's Young  
Leaders





visited most of their countries, and a highlight is always the personal conversation that takes place between Her Majesty and each Awardee.

The Queen's Young Leaders Programme has been characterised by an innovative outlook and a strong belief in the role of young people in rejuvenating and revitalising the Commonwealth and tackling some of the big challenges facing our global community. The impact of these leaders is already being felt at the local, national and pan-Commonwealth levels as their capacity to lead and deliver social action to lead positive change has blossomed.

### The RCS's Legacy Programme

The RCS Associate Fellows' Programme is also a legacy of The Queen's Young Leaders Programme. Over the course of the last four years, the top 20% of young people who have impressed the selection panel have been offered the opportunity to become Associate Fellows, along with each cohort of Queen's Young Leaders. As a foremost civil society Commonwealth association, the RCS provides these young adults with a further mechanism to stay involved in the Commonwealth family and to strengthen young civil society voices in their countries. The Associate Fellows are impacting on the work of the RCS, including re-galvanising the branch structure in some countries such as Kenya. Most recently, the Associate Fellows met in London as part of the Society's biennial International Meeting, and helped frame a vision for the RCS and shape the Associate



Fellows emerging young leaders programme going forward.

### The journey continues

The complete network of Queen's Young Leaders has now been established. While the Programme may no longer be looking for new Award winners, this is just the beginning of The Queen's Young Leaders' journey. Award winners and Highly Commended Runners-Up form a unique, dedicated and powerful group of young people from 53 Commonwealth countries who are connecting, collaborating and changing lives together – and will continue to do so for years to come.

↑ QYL Award Ceremony. © Queen's Young Leaders

↩ QYL Mentoring in Cambridge. © Queen's Young Leaders

*“The Queen's Young Leaders Programme has successfully captured the imagination of thousands of young people throughout the Commonwealth and created a springboard for youth action and leadership. The RCS has been honoured to be a partner, and looks forward to working with these leaders in the next phase of their development.”*

**Dr. Greg Munro, Chief Executive, The Royal Commonwealth Society**

The Queen's Young Leaders Programme will continue to champion the initiatives undertaken by Award winners and Highly Commended Runners Up support their networks and share their stories until the Programme formally closes as planned at the end of 2019.

 **MORE INFORMATION**  
[www.queensyoungleaders.com](http://www.queensyoungleaders.com)  
[bit.ly/TheRCS\\_AssociateFellows](http://bit.ly/TheRCS_AssociateFellows)





# 75% OF PACIFIC MEMBER STATES NOW PART OF THE QCC

During their first joint visit to the Pacific, Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Sussex unveiled six dedications to The Queen's Commonwealth Canopy (QCC) and welcomed commitment to the initiative by its latest member, Kiribati.

Welcome to Country smoking ceremony. The Duke then unveiled a plaque for the dedication of the Forests of K'gari to the QCC before meeting local elders and national park rangers to learn about the island's natural beauty, rich history, biodiversity and cultural significance.



Between Tuesday 16 and Wednesday 31 October 2018, Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Sussex undertook an official visit to Australia, Fiji, the Kingdom of Tonga and New Zealand. Although wide-ranging in nature, the visit included a focus on environmental and conservation efforts in each of these countries.

From Australia, The Duke and Duchess travelled to Fiji, where His Royal Highness visited one of Fiji's two QCC dedications, the Colo-i-Suva Forest Park, and met with school children, student conservators, representatives from sustainable tourism industries, and local landowners and villagers to see how the rainforest impacts upon their education and livelihoods.

Their Royal Highnesses' first QCC engagement occurred on the UNESCO World Heritage listed K'gari (Fraser Island), where the Traditional Owners of K'gari, the Butchulla people, met The Duke and Duchess and performed a traditional

In addition to unveiling plaques acknowledging Fiji's QCC dedications (Emalu Forest Conservation Area and Colo-I-Suva Forest Park), The Duke reflected on the country being highly susceptible to the impacts of climate change, noting that,

↑ Tonga – The Duke of Sussex tours the Toloa Forest Reserve



in 2012, Fiji's Vunitogaloa became the first village in the world to begin relocating to higher ground due to sea level rise. In the intervening period, five more Fijian villages have been displaced, with a further 10 villages being relocated to higher ground within the next 18 months.

From Fiji, Their Royal Highnesses travelled to the Kingdom of Tonga and visited Tupou College, the oldest secondary school in the Pacific. At the college, The Duke and Duchess dedicated two forest reserves – the Toloa Forest Reserve, the last remaining forest area on Tonga's main island of Tongatabu, and the 'Eua National Park Forest Reserve, located at the island of 'Eua – to the QCC.

During the last leg of their Pacific tour, The Duke and Duchess visited North Shore, Auckland, where they unveiled a plaque marking New Zealand's 44th QCC dedication.

New Zealand was one of the first countries to commit to the QCC, providing funding in 2015 to extend the network of Queen Elizabeth II National Trust covenants by creating a network of 'QCC Covenants'. The Trust was set up in 1977 to mark Her Majesty The Queen's Silver Jubilee and partners with landowners to secure long-term protection of natural and cultural features including, but not limited to, native forest remnants, wetlands, high country, threatened species habitats and arboretums on private land.

Speaking during the dedication ceremony, His Royal Highness remarked: 'New Zealand's contribution to the QCC has helped the QEII National Trust to meet increasing demand from landowners who want to safeguard important ecosystems on their land, because they understand and recognise the value of nature, or 'natural capital', to provide economic and social benefits.'

Throughout the visit, His Royal Highness took the opportunity to recognise and welcome the newest member of the QCC family, Kiribati, to the programme. Kiribati's dedication of the Aranuka Mangrove not only brings a culturally sacred site to the QCC's 90+ dedications but also provides



*“The [QCC] programme is committed to raising awareness of the value of indigenous forests and to saving them for future generations. Put simply, without trees and forests, we don't survive. It is a symbiotic relationship, and one that so many people still fail to realise.”* HRH The Duke of Sussex



an important breeding ground and nesting site for indigenous birds, reef fish and crabs.

Launched at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Malta in November 2015, the QCC seeks to create a pan-Commonwealth network of forests and botanical gardens that marks Her Majesty The Queen's service to the Commonwealth and conserves these important natural assets for future generations.

↑ The Duke of Sussex meets local children on K'gari; North Shore Riding Club – The Duchess of Sussex plants a tree at New Zealand's 44th QCC Covenant

## MORE INFORMATION

The QCC is a partnership between The Royal Commonwealth Society, the Commonwealth Forestry Association and the UK-based charity, Cool Earth. [queenscommonwealthcanopy.org](http://queenscommonwealthcanopy.org)

# COMING UP IN THE COMMONWEALTH

## 2018

### 1 DECEMBER

World AIDS Day (United Nations)



### 2 DECEMBER

International Day for the Abolition of Slavery (United Nations)

### 10 DECEMBER

Human Rights Day (United Nations)

## 2019

### 22 FEBRUARY

Commonwealth Family Day, Westminster Abbey

### 8 MARCH

International Women's Day (United Nations)

### 11-22 MARCH

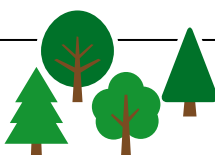
Commission on the Status of Women (United Nations Women)

### 11 MARCH

Commonwealth Day

### 21 MARCH

International Day of Forests (United Nations)



### 6 APRIL

International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (United Nations)

### 7 APRIL

International Day of Reflection on the Genocide in Rwanda (United Nations)

### 8-12 APRIL

21st Commonwealth Law Conference, Livingstone, Zambia (Commonwealth Lawyers Association)

### 23 APRIL

English Language Day (United Nations)

### 28 APRIL

70th anniversary of the Commonwealth of Nations

### 21 MAY

World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development (United Nations)



THE QUEEN'S  
COMMONWEALTH ESSAY COMPETITION 2019

### 1 JUNE

Entry deadline for The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition 2019

### 5 JUNE

World Environment Day (United Nations)

### 8 JUNE

World Oceans Day (United Nations)

# KEEP IN THE CONVERSATION



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## The Future of learning - **Sustainable Education**

**Dr Topi Litmanen** is the Chief Educational Scientist at Claned Group. He ensures that all pedagogical aspects of Claned are based on the latest learning research.

According to the Global Partnership for Education, it is a fact that we cannot train enough teachers needed to fill the alarmingly high education inequality gap. Due to a lack of teachers and other resources, many students are out of school. Even those who are in school are learning a lot less than they should or not learning at all. Hence our interest in exploring how technology can be used to fill the gaps and engage young learners who will support a more prosperous and peaceful future.

Simultaneously, the world and our daily lives are disrupted by digital technology, a reality in developed and developing countries. The rise of Edtech solutions that are easy to use and affordable can help teachers to survive in challenging environments, crowded classes and new learning needs. Improving learners' access to education.

The most important thing is to use learning tools which stimulate students, measure and analyse the learning process and make recommendations based on personal learning profiles. Meaningful implementation of smart applications, such as adaptive learning and learning analytics can improve results significantly.

The fourth pillar of learning according to UNESCO is "*Learning to live together*" to expose individuals to the values implicit within human rights, democratic principles, intercultural understanding and respect, peace at all levels of society and human relationships to enable individuals and societies to live in peace and harmony. Essential for meeting the goals of "A Connected Commonwealth".

We should not be afraid of using new smart technologies, such as machine learning to empower learners. Instead, with constructive curiosity and learning outcomes in view, we should explore how they might solve some of the problems in the education of today and the near future.

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### **MORE INFORMATION**

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AT RISK WINNER  
2017





## CELEBRATING 150 YEARS

RCS Branches and Associate Fellows celebrate the 150th anniversary of The Royal Commonwealth Society.



International Meeting, London



Barbados



Hong Kong



International Meeting, London



International Meeting, London



Guernsey



Toronto



South Australia

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**THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY**  
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Registered charity in England and Wales (226748), incorporated by Royal Charter.



**Editor:** Elizabeth van der Valk

**Design:** RF Design UK Ltd  
[www.rfportfolio.com](http://www.rfportfolio.com)

**Print:** Impress Print Services Ltd  
[www.impressprint.co.uk](http://www.impressprint.co.uk)

**Cover image:**  
Fergus Burnett