

## British Council announces the launch of the *Future English* programme in Azerbaijan.

10 December 2020

Our Future English programme aims to provide research and insight, drive innovation in education systems, and support the continuous professional development of English language teachers in the region.

In Azerbaijan, the Future English programme will be implemented in close cooperation with the **Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan**.

Future English is a three-year programme, and our focus is on:

- **Research:** With the support of the **Australian Council for Education Research (ACER)**, we will undertake the English Impact research to assess the English language skills of 16-year olds (their motivations, aspirations and learning preferences), providing valid, reliable and comparable data to inform the design of relevant interventions to help increase the English proficiency of school leavers.
- **Language Policy Forum:** We will share our research findings and explore possible solutions with a focus on English language policy and teachers' continuous professional development.
- **Teacher Development:** We have extensive experience when it comes to working with teachers and designing digital innovations to support their professional development. This is why we are piloting a virtual teaching community where teachers can connect with like-minded professionals, access resources and have a personalised online learning experience.

The virtual launch event will be attended by **Mr. Emin Amrullayev**, the Minister of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan, **Ms Kate Ewart-Biggs**, the incoming Chief Executive Officer of the British Council, Her Majesty's Ambassador to Azerbaijan **Mr. James Sharp**, and our Country Director in Azerbaijan, **Mr. Summer Xia**.

Find out more: <https://www.britishcouncil.az/en/programmes/education-society/future-english>

Ms Kate Ewart-Biggs, incoming Chief Executive Officer, British Council, comments:

*"In collaboration with the Ministry of Education of Azerbaijan, the British Council is delighted to launch Future English programme in Azerbaijan, aimed at identifying the strategic priorities to support the professional development needs of secondary school English teachers and the development of the overall CPD system. Through comprehensive research and sampling exercise with our partners University of Leicester and the (ACER), we will provide invaluable data to enable the Ministry to continue improving the quality of teaching and learning of English in schools across the country."*

Mr Summer Xia, Director in Azerbaijan, British Council, comments:

*"I am thrilled to welcome my colleague Kate Ewart-Biggs to Azerbaijan, one of the first countries from the British Council's global network she has chosen to visit as she becomes the new Chief Executive of our organisation. Together with the Minister of Education and a good friend of the British Council Mr Emin Amrullayev, we are pleased to launch Future English in Azerbaijan, a British Council flagship programme, through which we hope to provide hundreds of Azerbaijanis with opportunities to improve their English so that they can secure employment in the future and/or extend their studies further, helping them on a pathway to success."*

**For further information, please contact:**

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