

THE FUTURE OF INNOVATION AND ENTERPRISE



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The Future of Innovation and Enterprise is a values-driven programme tailored for 15 / 16 year olds and Transition Year introducing Circular Design and Futures Thinking. Our programme, merges circular economic principles, social, emotional, digital and environmental literacies with Design Thinking, a powerful framework for creative problem solving. The programme was designed to support learners by building the confidence and competence to become change makers and innovators to build for the future they will inhabit.

By nurturing key skills, 21st Century skills our values-Led Circular Design Thinking Programme will prepare learners to to lead the way in sustainable, innovative, and socially responsible design practices. The programme's core ethos, supporting learners to explore their passions and consider purposeful action, while nurturing essential 21st-century skills by igniting innovation, fostering empathy and inspiring change. The programme has been designed to support young people to move from their Passion to Purpose and how we can develop careers based on values, interests and passions within the context of 21c adaptation.

The programme was designed to empower learners by building the confidence and competence to become change makers and innovators to build for the future they will inhabit. By nurturing key skills, 21st Century skills our values-Led Circular Design Thinking Programme will prepare learners to to lead the way in sustainable, innovative, and socially responsible design practices. The programme's core ethos, supporting learners to explore their passions and consider purposeful action, while nurturing essential 21st-century skills by igniting innovation, fostering empathy and inspiring change. Working with external experts from industry, academia, education and civil society ensures a diverse range of skills and experience is embedded within the programme to build confidence and competence for living within a Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous (VUCA) world.

Over seven modules, beginning with Passion to Purpose, a project development programme learners are supported to become architects of their future, through learning to craft their own experiences and actively participate in shaping the future they will inhabit. The programme uses project and inquiry based cross-curricular and systems thinking, while enabling learners to discover the cognitive, strategic and practical processes that fuel innovation.

The programme' activities have been designed to support collaboration with peers to create and undertake projects that address contemporary issues on a local level, through tackling real-world challenges in meaningful and manageable ways. Aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 agenda, The Future of Innovation facilitates meaningful engagement and impact, now and in the future.

The 7 modules are:

1. SD12 Passion to Purpose: This module is a versatile project management module rooted in a values-led approach and circular design thinking, with 24 lessons supporting learners through the full project cycle. It serves as a platform that can be tailored to any subject, guiding learners through the ethos of Design Thinking—a cognitive, strategic, and practical process for fostering creative problem-solving.
2. Innovation Leadership for the 21st Century: This micro-module consists of 7 lessons that introduce values-led education through the endorsed Earth Charter, promoting sustainable leadership. The Earth Charter fosters eco-literacy and a holistic ecological mindset, encouraging systemic action for the UN SDGs to cultivate a lasting culture of peace.
3. Step into the Future(s): This micro-module consists of 8 lessons introducing learners to a series of methods used in the art of shaping tomorrow. Learners explore global mega trends and craft innovative scenarios and projects to support them to master foresight and creativity, enabling creation of diverse and sustainable futures in an ever-changing world.
4. Digital Citizenship: This micro-module introduces the fundamental concepts of digital literacy and digital citizenship and developing the ability to identify and use technology confidently, creatively, and critically to meet the demands and challenges of living, learning, and working in a digital society.
5. Engineering for Good: This micro-module enables learners to begin to develop an awareness of how engineering and innovation can be applied to the Sustainable Development Goals.
6. Creativity Toolbox: Coming Soon
7. Media communication is a supporting micro-module consisting of 4 micro-modules offering full support for media micro-projects; video, poster, presentation and audio, that can augment project-related assignment pieces or be extended as stand-alone projects.

These modules collectively cover the following Sustainable Development Goals: SDG8 Decent Work and Economic Growth; SDG9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; SDG12: Responsible Consumption and Production; SDG 13 Development of Economic and Social Affairs; SDG 17 Partnerships for the Goals.

External Expertise:

- Dr. Tara O’Neil, SMARTLab Niagra / OCADU, Chief Innovation Officer / Adjunct Professor and full-time lecturer at Georgian College of Applied Arts and Technology in Ontario, Canada. Dr
- Ms. Rebecca White: UCD - is an educator, consultant, trainer and curriculum developer, focusing on STEAM education, project-based, student-led learning and professional development for place-based learning
- Dr Colin Keogh An award winning highly driven & innovative Engineer, with qualifications & experience in innovative technologies in the Mechanical and Energy engineering sectors such as Biomass Energy, 3D Printing, Additive Manufacturing, Biomedical Engineering & Innovative Design.
- Dr Anita McKeown, FRSA, FIPM, MEI - is an award winning artist|scholar and STEAM educator, co-designing values-based leadership through education and community processes at the intersection of art, equitable placemaking, Open Source Culture and Technology (ethical and ecological implications),

For more information or to access online support in integrating the programme into your existing teaching please contact: hello@futurefocus21c.com