

Educational Innovations in English Language Learning, Teaching and Assessment - programme

9 e 10 settembre 2025, Pisa

Morning of 9th September 2025 for Primary School teachers

	Title	Speaker
9:00 - 9:30	Registration	
9:30 - 9:40	Welcome	USR Toscana USP Pisa, USP Lucca e USP Grosseto British Council
9:40 - 10:10	EDI and Special Needs in English Language Assessment In this talk we will provide an overview of British Council's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policies. This will lead us to showcase how British Council deploys various types of special arrangement measures in its own assessment tools. By the end of the session, you will have an insight into some of the tools that the British Council has developed in order to ensure test takers can have an inclusive and motivating English language assessment experience.	Paola Dora Giuliani, Exams Business Manager at British Council
10:10 - 10:55	Child: The Natural Scientist – Encouraging a Scientific Approach to Learning through CLIL in the Primary Classroom Children are natural scientists—eager to explore, observe, and question the world around them long before they learn to read or write. This presentation explores how CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning) supports young learners in developing both scientific thinking and English language skills across a range of content areas. Through practical experiments, inquiry-based tasks, chants, visuals, and scaffolded language, we'll see how children—from the pre-literacy stage to early literacy—can engage with content, develop curiosity-driven thinking skills, and learn to communicate their discoveries like “little scientists” in the classroom.	Catherine Toomey, Teacher Trainer at British Council
10:55 – 11:25	Coffee break	
11:25 – 12:10	Unlock Futures with the British Council For over 90 years, the British Council has shaped brighter futures through English language teaching and assessment, education, arts and creativity, we bring the best that the UK has to offer to the world. Discover how we can help institutions unlock opportunities, from achieving English teaching excellence to opening doors with international exams.	Omar Schiavoni, Head of Business Development at British Council
12:10 - 12:55	AI in Action: Designing Creative CLIL Projects for Young Learners The integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into educational practices represents an emerging frontier in pedagogical innovation, particularly within the framework of CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning). This presentation investigates the potential of AI-based tools to support Primary School teachers in the planning and implementation of engaging CLIL activities. It will offer practical examples of how AI can be employed to generate interdisciplinary content, tailor language materials to students of various levels, and foster active learning through visual, textual, and interactive resources. The objective is to illustrate how AI can serve as a practical and accessible ally for educators in enhancing both language development and subject learning, even in resource-constrained or mixed-ability classrooms. The session is intended for teachers, educators, and trainers interested in exploring innovative strategies for integrating technology and pedagogy.	Nancy Bailey, Referente CLIL per ANILS Toscana
12:55 - 13:00	Closing Remarks	British Council

Afternoon of 9th September 2025 for Lower Secondary School teachers

	Title	Speaker
14:00 - 14:30	Registration	
14:30 - 14:40	Welcome	USR Toscana USP Pisa, USP Lucca e USP Grosseto British Council
14:40 - 15:10	EDI and Special Needs in English Language Assessment In this talk we will provide an overview of British Council's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policies. This will lead us to showcase how British Council deploys various types of special arrangement measures in its own assessment tools. By the end of the session, you will have an insight into some of the tools that the British Council has developed in order to ensure test takers can have an inclusive and motivating English language assessment experience.	Paola Dora Giuliani, Exams Business Manager at British Council
15:10 - 15:55	From Curious Child to Capable Teen: Using CLIL to Support Growth in Lower Secondary This age group represents a unique and formative stage in a student's development: a transition from the more dependent, imaginative, and playful world of childhood to the more abstract, independent, and socially aware phase of adolescence. Lower secondary students are developing more advanced thinking skills, a stronger sense of identity, and a growing ability to reflect on the world around them. CLIL can play a powerful role during this period by integrating meaningful content with real language use, nurturing both cognitive and linguistic growth. This session introduces practical CLIL strategies for teaching academic subjects to students aged 11 to 14. It explores how to scaffold academic language, balance cognitive and linguistic demands, promote interaction through motivating tasks, and create a sense of community within and outside the classroom.	Catherine Toomey, Teacher Trainer at British Council
15:55 - 16:25	Coffee break	
16:25 - 17:10	Unlock Futures with the British Council For over 90 years, the British Council has shaped brighter futures through English language teaching and assessment, education, arts and creativity, we bring the best that the UK has to offer to the world. Discover how we can help institutions unlock opportunities, from achieving English teaching excellence to opening doors with international exams.	Omar Schiavoni, Head of Business Development at British Council
17:10 - 17:55	Empowering All Learners: Inclusive Practices and Tools for Supporting Dyslexia We should not simply focus on teaching English. Rather, we should aim to create an environment where authentic and meaningful learning can take place for all students. This involves adopting inclusive methodologies that enable every learner to achieve their objectives, regardless of their individual learning profiles. It is equally important to foster environments that promote self-efficacy, support self-esteem, and provide emotional security. These aspects are particularly crucial for learners with dyslexia. This session will explore the real challenges faced by students with dyslexia and how educators can increase inclusion by offering support and equipping students with the tools they need to succeed. The presentation will cover a variety of inclusive methodologies and classroom strategies that not only address students' needs but also recognize and utilize their strengths. The discussion will include collaborative learning, experiential and emotional approaches, task-based learning, and Total Physical Response (TPR).	Joanna Paolinelli, Managing Director British School IH Pisa
17:55 - 18:00	Closing Remarks	British Council

Morning of 10th September 2025 for Upper Secondary School teachers

	Title	Speaker
9:00 - 9:30	Registration	
9:30 - 9:40	Welcome	USR Toscana USP Pisa, USP Lucca e USP Grosseto British Council
9:40 - 10:10	EDI and Special Needs in English Language Assessment In this talk we will provide an overview of British Council's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policies. This will lead us to showcase how British Council deploys various types of special arrangement measures in its own assessment tools. By the end of the session, you will have an insight into some of the tools that the British Council has developed in order to ensure test takers can have an inclusive and motivating English language assessment experience.	Paola Dora Giuliani, Exams Business Manager at British Council
10:10 - 10:55	Enhancing language teaching and learning through AI This session introduces practical ways to use AI as a classroom assistant, lesson planning aid, and student support tool. Participants will learn how to generate differentiated materials, design interactive activities, create assessments, and adapt lessons for varied ability levels. The session also covers how to help students use AI tools effectively and responsibly, including prompt-writing techniques and self-study strategies.	Catherine Toomey, Teacher Trainer at British Council
10:55 - 11:25	Coffee break	
11:25 - 12:10	Unlock Futures with the British Council For over 90 years, the British Council has shaped brighter futures through English language teaching and assessment, education, arts and creativity, we bring the best that the UK has to offer to the world. Discover how we can help institutions unlock opportunities, from achieving English teaching excellence to opening doors with international exams.	Omar Schiavoni, Head of Business Development at British Council
12:10 - 12:55	Didattica al bivio. Insegnamento, apprendimento, e valutazione dell'inglese tra ENL ed ELF. L'intervento propone una riflessione teorica e alcuni suggerimenti pratici per valutare gli studenti sulla base della didattica per competenze. Alla panoramica su competenza comunicativa, ENL, ELF, e normativa sulla valutazione nella scuola italiana seguiranno spunti di riflessione sull'approccio ELF-informed ed ELF-oriented all'insegnamento/apprendimento della lingua e alla valutazione, per concludere con esempi di attività didattiche da svolgere in classe.	Roberto Di Scala, Docente di ruolo di inglese all'I.I.S. Da Vinci di Villafranca in Lunigiana (MS) e Presidente ANILS Toscana
12:55 - 13:00	Closing Remarks	British Council

Afternoon of 10th September 2025 for C.P.I.A. teachers

	Title	Speaker
14:00 - 14:30	Registration	
14:30 - 14:40	Welcome	USR Toscana USP Pisa, USP Lucca e USP Grosseto British Council
14:40 - 15:10	EDI and Special Needs in English Language Assessment In this talk we will provide an overview of British Council's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policies. This will lead us to showcase how British Council deploys various types of special arrangement measures in its own assessment tools. By the end of the session, you will have an insight into some of the tools that the British Council has developed in order to ensure test takers can have an inclusive and motivating English language assessment experience.	Paola Dora Giuliani, Exams Business Manager at British Council
15:10 - 15:55	Using AI to Support Teaching in the CPIA Classroom CPIA classrooms in Italy are among the most diverse, often including newly arrived migrants, adults with limited formal education or literacy, but also learners with strong language skills. This presentation shows how Artificial Intelligence can help teachers design flexible, differentiated activities that meet a wide range of needs. It will focus on practical classroom strategies, including vocabulary building, conversation practice and language scaffolding, while considering the adult learner's potential to act as a linguistic resource in peer learning, and use AI responsibly to develop self-study strategies.	Catherine Toomey, Teacher Trainer at British Council
15:55 - 16:25	Coffee break	
16:25 - 17:10	Unlock Futures with the British Council For over 90 years, the British Council has shaped brighter futures through English language teaching and assessment, education, arts and creativity, we bring the best that the UK has to offer to the world. Discover how we can help institutions unlock opportunities, from achieving English teaching excellence to opening doors with international exams.	Omar Schiavoni, Head of Business Development at British Council
17:10 - 17:55	Empowering All Learners: Inclusive Practices and Tools for Supporting Dyslexia We should not simply focus on teaching English. Rather, we should aim to create an environment where authentic and meaningful learning can take place for all students. This involves adopting inclusive methodologies that enable every learner to achieve their objectives, regardless of their individual learning profiles. It is equally important to foster environments that promote self-efficacy, support self-esteem, and provide emotional security. These aspects are particularly crucial for learners with dyslexia. This session will explore the real challenges faced by students with dyslexia and how educators can increase inclusion by offering support and equipping students with the tools they need to succeed. The presentation will cover a variety of inclusive methodologies and classroom strategies that not only address students' needs but also recognize and utilize their strengths. The discussion will include collaborative learning, experiential and emotional approaches, task-based learning, and Total Physical Response (TPR). Furthermore, we will examine the role of emerging technologies - such as virtual reality and artificial intelligence (AI) - in creating classrooms that are accessible to everyone. In particular, AI offers innovative solutions through personalized learning, speech-to-text applications, and adaptive content delivery. These tools can help ensure that all students, including those with dyslexia, can engage meaningfully and confidently in their learning journey.	Joanna Paolinelli, Managing Director British School IH Pisa
17:55 - 18:00	Closing Remarks	British Council