How can we know what life we are preparing the pupils for?

When I was at school, I didn't think about what I'd be doing in 10 to 15 years time. I don't think there are many children who actually really know. They are talking about what they want to be when they grow up, whether it's professional football or a doctor or they want to work in nature in some way. But how many of them actually achieved that? And if you look back ten years ago, how many of you thought that you would have just gone through the kind of curriculum change that we've had as a result of a global pandemic or as a result of a change of curriculum?

You can't predict what the future is going to hold, but you can prepare children for it. And if you develop the key skills, and I'm not necessarily talking academically either, if you develop the key skills and core values in those children and you give them the chance to be able to explore and think creatively and solve problems, then you have children that can pick up any piece of technology and use it or know what it's for; or be able to adapt to it; or be creative with it. I'm not really interested in thinking, what does the future hold? I'm interested in thinking, will these children be able to cope with what the future holds?

So at our school, we really think about how the learning behaviours are: about collaboration, about risk taking, about aspiration. And if you take that into English work, we might be collaborating while we're writing a story, might be taking risks in our choice of language, we might be aspiring to be published authors. But equally, if you take that into technology, how can we collaborate together on documents while we're writing those stories? How can we take risks? What could this piece of technology do for us? What can we do with this camera in a different way? How can we capture this particular moment of learning?

And if you think about aspiration: who do I want to share this work with? We've shared our children's work with authors, with presidents, with artists. It's about what you can do with a piece of technology at the time. But in ten years time, whatever that piece of technology is, you apply the same skills of how we learn and how we do things and you'll be a success.