

9:30-10:00 Registration & Exhibition

10:00 Welcome & Opening speaker: Carly Hynes, Sandfield Park School

10:30-11:00 Morning Exhibition

	AAC Strand (Broadway Room)	AT Strand (Board Room)	Workshop Strand (Meeting Room)
11:00 to 11:30	<p>From Resources to Strategy: Embedding AAC Through Immersive Classroom Practice <i>Zoe David, AAC Consultant, Liberator Ltd</i></p> <p>Drawing on classroom experience and AAC research to examine prioritising core vocabulary, consistent modelling without expectation and moving beyond requests. The session emphasises creating immersive, total communication environments that normalise AAC for pupils, peers, and staff, and frames effective implementation as a gradual, sustainable process rather than an overnight change.</p>	<p>Supporting Inclusion in Mainstream Schools Through an AT Lending Library <i>Alan Davies, Lancasterian School and Manchester City Council</i></p> <p>This session explores how a Change Programme Local Authority is using assistive technology (AT) to strengthen inclusive practice in mainstream schools across Manchester. It will outline the development of an AT lending library and outreach model, supporting schools to build capacity, trial provision, and embed AT within ordinarily available provision to better meet the needs of pupils with SEND.</p>	<p>Assistive Gaming for All <i>Bob Sagoo, Pretorian Technologies</i></p> <p>Join Bob for this drop-in hands-on workshop to explore how Assistive Technology can support AT/AAC users in Gaming.</p> <p>Covering console gaming on Xbox and Nintendo, as well as PC Gaming with alternative access solutions including switch access, mouse alternatives and eye gaze.</p>
11:40 to 12:10	<p>From Access to Expression: The Impact of Early AAC Intervention <i>Nieve Turner and Zoe Bland Assistant Practitioners Ace Centre</i></p> <p>Early AAC use can transform communication for young children with additional needs. This session explores why early intervention matters, practical strategies for everyday use, engaging activity ideas, and common barriers families face. Designed for parents or early years practitioners, it highlights how simple, play-based approaches can support language, reduce frustration, and help children connect with the world around them.</p>	<p>Mapping the Mind: Using Inspiration to Bridge Visual Thinking and AAC Agency <i>Reeza Awoodun, CEO Techedology</i></p> <p>Unlock the potential of Inspiration 12 as a cognitive bridge for non-verbal users. This session demonstrates how users with motor skills can utilize visual mapping to organize thoughts and build linguistic agency. We will provide support workers with strategies to co-create frameworks that simplify complex communication and drive meaningful social outcomes.</p>	<p>Please note: This session ends at 12:00</p>
12:20 to 12:50	<p>AAC across the school day: navigating changing expectations <i>Jacqui Malthouse, Senior AT Specialist, Smartbox Assistive Technology</i></p> <p>Students who use AAC face different communication expectations as they move through the school day, across lessons, routines, people and environments. This session explores how these shifting expectations can create hidden barriers and highlights practical ways school staff can reduce them by providing clearer, more consistent communication support across the day.</p>	<p>Access First. How AT Foundations Shape AI and Digital Literacy at Moon Hall <i>David Curran, Head of Careers, AT & AI Lead, Moon Hall School Reigate</i></p> <p>At Moon Hall, our approach to AI and digital literacy did not begin with AI. It began with Assistive Technology. This presentation explores how an AT-first culture helped shape more inclusive, consistent, and responsible use of digital tools across the school. It will reflect on access, learner independence, staff development, and why strong foundations matter if new technology is to support real learners well.</p>	<p>Five Practical Steps to Improve Access for Children with CVI <i>Gwyn McCormack, Positive Eye</i></p> <p>This 30-minute workshop is designed to guide you through five effective, low-cost, low-tech changes that can have a significant impact on a child's access to learning. Each step is practical, straightforward, and easily adopted into everyday practice, ensuring that every child with CVI is given the best chance to succeed.</p>

12:50 – 13:30 Midday Exhibition

13:30 to 14:00	<p>Bringing AAC to Life in the Classroom <i>Jennette Greenwood, Education Specialist, Inclusive Technology</i></p> <p>AAC is most powerful when it becomes part of everyday classroom life. This session explores how AT can turn communication opportunities into meaningful moments. From switches and adapted toys to eye gaze and HelpKidzLearn activities, we'll share real examples to support access, engagement and progression. Expect practical ideas, ready-to-use resources, and simple ways to make AAC motivating and interactive.</p>	<p>Spaces, Stories and Technology <i>Alex Ford, Founder & Designer, PODS Play</i></p> <p>A look at Augmented Assistive Tech in classrooms, based on real experiences rather than theory. It explores how small environmental changes, like creating calm, defined spaces, can reduce overwhelm, support communication, and build independence, showing that simple, child-led approaches can make a meaningful difference.</p>	<p>Scanning Pens Impact & Support <i>Jim and Julia, UK Country Manager and Global Head of Education</i></p> <p>Take a look at our C-Pen Range and how we can provide a toolbox approach to support students across primary and secondary schools. Exploring the impact of fostering independence and confidence for students with learning needs.</p>
14:10 to 14:40	<p>A Universal Approach to Power-based AAC in Education <i>Kathryn Stowell, Head of CENMAC, Assistive Technology in Education</i></p> <p>What happens when you give every student and teacher an iPad with an AAC app? The presentation will share the details of how we implemented power-based AAC across every classroom, and explore outcomes identified to both students and teachers. What has been our overall learning, and what are the implications for the future provision of AAC? How might this universal approach contribute to improved language and literacy skills, and reduce barriers to education and social interaction?</p>	<p>Accidental to Expert: Development for Assistive Technologists <i>Fil McIntyre, Assistive Technology Lead, TechAbility</i></p> <p>Many people working in Assistive Technology found their way into the role almost accidentally. This session will highlight the importance of Assistive Technologists developing their knowledge, skills and professional practice. Some development pathways will also be discussed. The newly formed Professional Association of Assistive Technologists will also be introduced, which has been established to improve the quality, standards and impact in the AT sector.</p>	<p>FUNctional Switching: Activities for Developing Switch Skills <i>Kezia Hesketh, Ace Centre</i></p> <p>Join Kezia for a drop-in, hands-on workshop to try activities based on the FUNctional Switching framework. Explore ideas about building switch access skills through practical activities that are fun, motivating and engaging, using a clear five-stage "gears" model from single-switch use to purposeful scanning for choice-making and communication.</p>
14:50 to 15:20	<p>Accessible AAC for Classroom Success <i>Joe Naraynsingh, Tobii Dynavox</i></p> <p>Explore the benefits of a Total Communication approach in the classroom. Tools such as TD Snap for Schools, communication books, Core First Learning and the DAGG 3 assessment tool are available free to schools. By integrating these, educators can support confident self-expression, active participation, and communication development across contexts, while building staff skills in AAC, modelling, and consistent, whole-class communication strategies.</p>	<p>Universal Design, focusing on iOS Accessibility <i>Samantha McNeilly & Dr Stephen Newport, Ace Centre</i></p> <p>An exploration of the concept of "Universal Design" within ATech and AAC, examining the changing relationship between 'mainstream' technology and disabled users. Practically, learn about free, iOS' (apple) baked in accessibility settings, including input methods, voice control etc.</p>	

15:20 – 16:00 Exhibition