
THE EDTECH PODCAST PRESENTS



The Hackney Edition

Episode 1: Ian Ashman, Principal, Hackney Community College

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THE EDTECH PODCAST - THE HACKNEY EDITION

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WHAT'S FEATURED IN THIS EPISODE?

- 20 minute interview with the principal of Hackney Community College, Ian Ashman
- Hear more about the diversity issues which plague the tech industry and initiatives trying to help
- Establish the three main barriers to better opportunities for young people in Hackney, established by a regeneration agency research document
- Find out how the college and local tech and digital partners are collaborating to launch apprenticeship schemes in Shoreditch, Tower Hamlets and Stratford with BT Sport and local financial industries
- The business challenges of skills shortages: are tech companies doing enough to build up local skills; should they have to or is import best?
- Understand the financial pressures of the further education sector and innovative models seeking to future proof the college
- How is the college working with on site tenants including a free school and an Edtech accelerator to get more for its students?
- Chart the march of tech going east, as 'tech outpaces itself from the Shoreditch market'
- Understand Hackney Community College's new place in the educational development in the borough of Hackney and why it is raising awareness for alternate pathways to success beyond traditional Universities
- How tech teachers are working with the Learning Trust to get support for collaboration and Edtech in Hackney

Tags:

Skills shortages; collaboration; telematics; edtech; college; further education; FE; techcity; diversity; Hackney; apprenticeships; digital; computerscience; education; BTsport; HereEast;

Quotes:

On the tech industry in Hackney: 'We've seen massive growth in tech companies...big and small.'

On opportunities for local people: 'We've seen very little direct opportunity for local people...including our students.'

On diversity issues in the tech industry: 'It's really startling when you walk out of a campus where 70% of your students are from black and minority ethnic backgrounds into workplaces over the road which are 98%, or in some cases, 100% white.' 'It's very stark.'

On their apprenticeships scheme: 'It's been slow to get going, I have to say; slower than I would have hoped.' 'Those young people are having an absolutely fantastic time. They are getting a really good salary and they are brilliant ambassadors.' 'That's our focus forwards; that we will be a major provider of digital apprenticeships on the olympic park site.'

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On ensuring college courses are relevant to the tech sector as an employer: ‘we’ve been gradually increasing the content and the relevance of the the content to the tech companies.’ ‘There is much more focus on the computing side; applications development and programming.’

On the burgeoning industry of digital learning providers: ‘there is no such thing as a unique good idea.’

On the tech industry moving beyond Shoreditch: ‘we’ve seen the growth in tech outpacing itself from the Shoreditch market.’

On their new tenancy at Here East: ‘we’re aiming to create about 5000 sq. feet of space in our apprenticeship training centre.’ ‘We see ourselves as being part of the bigger educational cultural development that’s becoming known as Olympicopolis.’

On hosting tech tenants at the Hackney Community College site: ‘For every business on site the commitment is a day a year of time in lecturing to students, mentoring, work experience or apprenticeships.’

On the promise of tech/educators working together in Hackney: ‘I think it is adhoc. It very much depends on individuals and how they view educational development.’

On educational pathways diversifying out of school >university: ‘Schools have historically focused on getting people into universities; it’s about raising awareness of the apprenticeship route as an alternative to university.’

Reading and resources:

[Hackney Community College:](#)

[Hackney and Tower Hamlets College Merger](#)

[We are dot dot](#)

[General Assembly](#)

[Tech City Apprenticeships](#)

[Hackney Profile Report](#)

[BT Sport Apprenticeships application](#)

[Makers Academy](#)

[Emerge Education](#)

[Learning Trust](#)

[Here East](#)

[Tech City Investors Page](#)

BACKGROUND TO THE HACKNEY EDITION:

Hackney is a small borough of East London, home to only 246, 000, but carrying one of the highest population densities in the capital. By 2020 Hackney will need an extra set of places equivalent to three new primary schools and two new secondary schools to cope with demand.

Within the borough sits 27, 000 pupils in over 70 schools, nurseries and play centres; the borough recognised 88 spoken languages in the 2011 census and just over a third of respondents to the same census described themselves as White British, with vibrant African, Caribbean, Turkish, Vietnamese, and Australian communities in the mix, alongside those religious communities recognised as Jewish, Muslim or Christian.

To put some context on the educational turn around: In 1999, when an Audit Commission report found that Hackney had presided over the largest fall in GCSE results in the country, the Labour Government intervened, putting Hackney’s Local Education Authorities into special measures, and taking direct control of education services away from the council. Thus was borne the humble academy as David Blunkett’s intervention led to

the creation of the Learning Trust, a bespoke not-for-profit company set up to take on the functions of Hackney's failing LEA and report directly to the Secretary of State for Education. Out of this system came the oft lauded Mossbourne Academy, led by now-head of Ofsted Sir Michael Wilshaw to be considered one of the best schools in the country. And whereas In 2002, Hackney's Key Stage 2 results were the worst in the country, and less than a third of students were achieving five or more GCSEs at grades A*-C, in 2014, that figure was above the national average at 61 per cent, with some schools achieving as high as 91 per cent.

That is to say that well documented for being deprived, things in Hackney are changing: In the 2010 Index of Multiple Deprivation, Hackney ranked 2nd in the country. In 2015 Hackney had dropped down to eleventh, indicating that Hackney is becoming less deprived relative to other local authority areas in England. In addition, Hackney has experienced rapid economic growth over the last 15 years. In 2012, London Borough of Hackney hosted 13, 000 firms, a 40% increase from 2004. More crucially, Hackney is well represented in London's current growth industries. Companies in key knowledge industries comprise 55% of Hackney's economy (7,840 firms), 3% more than in the rest of London. When we think about Tech initiatives who have chosen Hackney as their home, the case studies are multiple:

- Here East - the former press and broadcast centre on the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park offering 1.2 million sqft of commercial space for London's creative and digital industries, valued at £90m.
- Tech City - based in Shoreditch, London based tech companies raised \$1.6billion in the first nine months of 2015, with 4808 of those companies based at the Shoreditch silicon roundabout.
- Emerge Education - Hackney-based edtech start up accelerator and part of the estimated £45bn global valued edtech industry

Yet over a quarter of Hackney's working aged residents are economically inactive.

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- the CEO of Here East
 - a variety of Edtech start ups based in Hackney
 - Hackney Council's The Learning Trust e-learning department
 - a Hackney primary school teacher AND
 - the head of digital at the Victoria and Albert museum
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