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THE EDTECH PODCAST PRESENTS



## The Hackney Edition

**Episode 2: Gavin Poole, CEO, Here East**

TX: May, 2016

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## THE EDTECH PODCAST - THE HACKNEY EDITION

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### WHAT'S FEATURED IN THIS EPISODE?

- Which Universities, Schools and Colleges are collaborating with Here East
- Here East and UCL's Institute of Robotics
- Here East's ambitions locally, nationally and internationally
- International digital hubs around the world akin to Here East
- Podcast scoop: How Here East are launching a new Education Community Manager role to reach out into the local schools community
- How local firm Optimity are helping to address the digital divide and improve access to broadband
- Here East and Gainsborough Primary School
- Becoming the hub for digital apprenticeship in London

### Tags:

Robotics, collaboration, primary school, edtech, innovation, education community manager, broadband, diversity, Hackney, making, makers, makerspace, start-up, broadcasting, London2012

### Quotes:

**On 2016:** 'This is the year we really get going.'

**On opportunities for local people:** 'We become the connectors into the local community, working with the London Legacy Development Corporation'

**On schools approaching Here East:** 'We want schools to be confident that they can make approaches to us, to learn about broadcasting, to learn about making, to learn about what it means to be a start up' On competition vs. collaboration: 'It's important to know whether you are in collaboration mode or competitive mode'

**On London 2012:** 'Here East was an incredible gift out of London2012'

**On ambitious growth:** 'We are just like any other business with a product...how do we potentially roll this out not just nationally, but internationally?'

### Reading and resources:

[Here East](#)

[UCL Robotics](#)

[Gainsborough Primary School London Legacy](#)

[London Legacy Development Corporation](#)

[Optimity](#)

[Hackney Profile Report](#)

[Hackney Community College](#)

[BT Sport Apprenticeships application](#)

[Tech City Apprenticeships](#)

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### 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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Make sure you subscribe to the Edtech Podcast on iTunes to hear subsequent Hackney edition interviews with non other than

- 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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