

PROGRAMME AND SPEAKER PROFILES 30-31 January 2024

Birchwood Conference Centre, Johannesburg





WELCOME NOTE

Welcome to the Amplify After School Symposium!

With great anticipation, we extend a warm welcome to the **2024 Amplify After School Symposium**. This gathering provides a unique opportunity for After School Programmes (ASPs), practitioners, changemakers and leaders to come together to learn and celebrate the sector. Our carefully crafted programme is designed to engage and inspire you. It is a platform for ASPs to exchange knowledge, expand networks, and be inspired to innovate.

As you know, The Learning Trust is dedicated to developing South Africa's extended learning sector by providing funding and capacity support to ASPs that work towards improving educational outcomes for all young people. In a rapidly changing world with evolving educational paradigms and growing socioeconomic disparities, the need for accessible and impactful extended learning is paramount. We are deeply grateful to Allan & Gill Gray Philanthropies South Africa for generously supporting our vision for a cohesive sector as we pursue equity and quality in our country's education outcomes.

ASPs play a vital role in shaping children and young people's lives, and providing a safe, nurturing environment that extends learning **Beyond the Classroom**. But we know that many ASPs face limited resources, fragmented support, and a lack of comprehensive scaling and amplification strategies. Unfortunately, quite a few ASPs often function in isolation, unaware of innovative practices and intervention models, which results in duplication and misalignment. This Symposium is dedicated to addressing these challenges.

As such, our two-day programme centers around six core themes that will serve as the cornerstone of our discussions and activities: Amplifying Educational Transformation, Scaling for Impact, Leveraging Innovation, Employing and Empowering Youth, Strengthening Public Partnerships, and Sustainably Resourcing ASPs. Together, these themes work to foster collective growth, magnify our impact, and inspire you to be a more vocal and influential after-school changemaker.

We eagerly look forward to a symposium teeming with thought-provoking discussions, collaborative learning, and tangible insights. Your involvement in this transformative experience is truly valued, and we applaud your commitment to uplifting South Africa's children and youth. The Amplify After School Symposium is crafted specifically for you - we hope that you will forge connections with like-minded colleagues and join us in celebrating the impactful realm of after-school initiatives!

Best regards,

Sibongile Khumalo
Executive Director, The Learning Trust



Programme

Day One - Tuesday, 30th January 2024

08h30 - 09h30 **REGISTRATION**

09h30 - 10h00 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

Welcome by **Sixolile Mabombo**, The Learning Trust Board Chair Scene setting by Programme Director, **Wayde Groep**

10h00 - 10h40 **OPENING CONVERSATION**

Exploring the role of civil society and the significance of youth voice in a thriving democracy. Addressing the voids in the South African context and understanding the contribution of After School Programmes (ASPs). A panel discussion examining the problem that ASPs are addressing.

Sibongile Khumalo, The Learning Trust, in conversation with:

- Tessa Dooms, Rivonia Circle
- Bongiwe Mlangeni, Social Justice Independent Consultant; and Trustee of The Learning Trust

10h40 -11h00 **SYSTEMIC CHANGE**

Kate Philip, Programme Lead for the Presidential Employment Stimulus discussing government priorities, youth employment and opportunities for ASPs.

11h00 - 11h20 PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

Processing and pondering insights gained from the morning session.

11h20 - 11h50 **TEA/COFFEE**

Engage in interactive stalls from ASPs

11h50 - 13h00 **WORKSHOPS**

Breakaway 1: Strategic leadership

Facilitator: Joy Olivier, Binding Constraints Lab

Explore strategic leadership in programmes that have collaborated with government to scale early-grade reading initiatives. We will hear from **Nompumelelo Mohohlwane**, representing the Department of Education, **Joanna Reynolds** from Axium Education and **Sipumelele Lucwaba** from the Binding Constraints Lab.

Breakaway 2: Quality standards in ASPs

Facilitator: **Zoe Mann**, The Learning Trust

Define "quality" programming in after-school settings by drawing on international examples. In this discussion, we will consider the transferability of quality standards in the South African context, and learn practices that can be adopted for the benefit of local ASPs.

Breakaway 3: Successful partnerships with schools

Facilitator: **Zama Zulu**, Masinyusane Development Organization

Gain insights into what constitutes an outstanding partnership with a school. We will hear from an ASP about the factors that have enabled and inhibited their success, and explore strategies to build effective relationships with schools, and ultimately with district and provincial departments.

13h00 - 14h00 **Lunch**

14h00 - 14h20 PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

Gather key takeaways from parallel sessions.

14h20 - 15h30 **YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND EMPOWERMENT**

A must-attend session for all ASPs! Dive into the world of the Social Employment Fund, where we'll unpack the victories and challenges of empowering thousands of youth from across the country to support ASPs. Panelists will share their experiences and spill the beans on what truly worked and what didn't! We look to the future too - where can this opportunity to engage unemployed young people take the sector? We also want to hear about your wins and hiccups.

Our speakers will include:

- Kristen Thompson, Researcher
- Mario Van Niekerk of Great Commission United, Tebogo Loate representing Velle, and Shuvai Finos from Ikamvayouth.
- Moderated by Charlene Petersen-Voss, The Learning Trust

15h30 - 15h45 WRAP UP AND CLOSE

15h45 - 16h00 STROLL OVER TO THE RUNWAY BAR AND INVITE SOMEONE YOU HAVEN'T HAD A CHAT WITH TODAY TO JOIN YOU ON THE WAY.

16h00 - 17h00 **EVENING DRINKS**

Join us at the Runway Bar for a fantastic opportunity to meet and mingle with other delegates! Enjoy some lighthearted and enjoyable networking, guided by the energetic Wayde Groep who will lead us in fun activities that are sure to put a smile on your face. Thereafter, feel free to grab a beverage, kick back, and unwind in a relaxed atmosphere. It's the perfect way to end the day with laughter and connection!

Day Two - Wednesday, 31st January 2024

09h00 - 09h20 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

Recap and reflect on Day 1

09h20 - 10h20 **POWER TALK: AMPLIFY**

Understand the critical role of branding in attracting resources. Join us in welcoming **Kevin L. Brown**, CEO of Mighty Ally, who will unravel the intricacies of leveraging a strong organisational branding to secure vital funding for your work. Discover the power of a compelling brand narrative and its impact on fostering connections and garnering support. Don't miss this rare opportunity to explore dynamic strategies to amplify your ASP!

The session will conclude with a Q&A facilitated by Wayde Groep.

10h20 11h30 **MASTERCLASSES**

Masterclass 1: How to source alternative and sustainable funding Facilitator: Alef Meulenberg, Rhiza Holdings

• Embark on a transformative learning experience with this Masterclass dedicated to fundraising. This session invites you to explore the insights and experiences shared by a seasoned professional. The expert-led instruction ensures an interactive session, with an engaging Q&A and discussion. An enriching session that promises to equip you with practical skills and a comprehensive understanding of sustainable funding practices.

Masterclass 2: How to run a successful advocacy campaign

Facilitators: Kristal Duncan-Williams & Clotilde Angelucci, Youth Capital

 Learn advocacy fundamentals, stakeholder engagement, and effective digital advocacy tools. This masterclass will offer a comprehensive guide to enhancing your skills in strategising and running impactful campaigns. An enriching exploration of strategic advocacy that promises to elevate your skills in amplifying your work.

Masterclass 3: How to nurture young minds

Facilitator: Deborah Diedericks, Senior Programme Officer, EMpower

 Explore the vital domain of mental health, defining its significance and discovering best practices. Acquire practical tools to support learners' mental health, enabling the creation of nurturing environments in your programme. This enriching masterclass is tailored for after school practitioners and leaders, empowering them to foster well-being among the young participants in their care.

11h30 - 12h00

TEA/COFFEE

12h00 - 12h45

UNLEASHING INNOVATION: PECHA KUCHA PRESENTATIONS

Immerse yourself in a dynamic format of concise and impactful presentations, featuring innovative ASPs sharing their expertise on Coding without Computers, Arts for Thriving Youth, Tech-Enabled Learning, and Collective Monitoring & Evaluation. Presenters from Lalela, LEVA Foundation, Reflective Learning, and TeamPact will showcase cutting-edge approaches that hold promising opportunities for ASPs. A fast-paced commentary on innovative practices that can elevate ASP impact in diverse learning environments.

Our presenters are:

- Eugene Pelteret, Reflective Learning
- Jackson Tshabalala, Leva Foundation
- Vika Mjoka, Lalela
- Tim Conibear, TeamPact

12h45 - 13h30

STARTING SOMETHING FROM NOTHING: NAVIGATING GROWTH

Be inspired to start something and sustain its growth through effective leadership, strategic innovation, and dynamic partnerships. This session will unravel the intricacies of building and leading a thriving organisation, exploring the challenges and triumphs inherent in the process. Examine the crucial role of courage and collaboration that contributed to the sustainable expansion of after-school initiatives. An opportunity to glean lessons and inspiration from those who have successfully navigated the growth path.

Our panelists are:

- Andrew Barrett, OLICO Maths Education
- Moitshepi Matsheng, Youth Impact
- Jacqui Boulle, YearBeyond
- Wendy Abrahams, Advance Edukos Foundation
- Moderated by Christine Downton, Founder of The Learning Trust

13h30 - 13h45

WRAP UP AND CLOSE

13h45 - 14h45

LUNCH

SPEAKER PROFILES



WENDY ABRAHAMS

Wendy is the Director and Founder of Advance Edukos Foundation, which helps young individuals navigate life's path with the right tools and human support. Wendy holds an Honours in Psychosocial Education and is in her final year completing her Masters in Socio-Education. The mission of Advance Edukos Foundation is to ensure that every participant, whether in or out of school, is empowered to choose life and aspire to become a better version of themselves. Driven by passion, Wendy has 16 years of experience in the afterschool sector and experience as a teacher and counsellor. Wendy currently sits on the Ward Committee for Ward 43, representing the Youth Sector.



CLOTILDE ANGELUCCI

Clotilde is the Communications and Network Lead for Youth Capital, an advocacy campaign that aims to catalyse a South Africa where all young people can access earning opportunities. Clotilde holds a BSc in Communication, Postgraduate qualifications in Management and Marketing, and a Diploma in Public Relations. With a decade of experience spanning communications, project management, stakeholder management, marketing, copywriting, and education, she is passionate about strategic narratives and network building for social change



ANDREW BARRETT

Andrew is the Executive Director and co-founder of OLICO Maths Education. He holds a masters in Philosophy and a BA in Psychology. OLICO has grown to impact over 4,100 direct beneficiaries and partnered with a network of organisations who collectively support an additional 19,000 learners. Andrew oversees OLICO's online maths resources, reaching learners across all grades with a blend of tutoring and technology that offers a unique pathway into primary and high school maths. He sits on the board of NASCEE, contributing to the broader educational landscape.



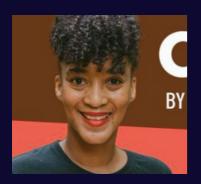
KEVIN L. BROWN

Kevin is the CEO of Mighty Ally, a company dedicated to building nonprofit & foundation brands to maximise funding and advance social justice. He has partnered with 200+ clients in 35 countries and has over 25,000 followers on LinkedIn. Through his theory of change, Kevin strives to bridge the gap between non-profits and the best stories to maximise funding, ensuring that impactful programmes receive the attention they deserve. His personal purpose is deeply rooted in the urgent vision that poverty and injustice should be eradicated for all.



TIM CONIBEAR

An accomplished founder and organisational leader, Tim brings 15 years of expertise to the intersection of health promotion, physical activity, and technology. Based in Cape Town, he operates globally. Tim is not only the founder of TeamPact, a platform for tracking vital information and sharing it with key connections. He also founded Waves for Change, a Cape Town based multi-award-winning organisation that combines physical activity with evidence-based coaching techniques to foster health and well-being outcomes for young people in under-resourced communities worldwide.



TESSA DOOMS

Tessa, a seasoned democracy, governance, and policy expert, is driven by values of participation, social justice, and human-centered design. Her mission is to equip organisations and individuals with the skills to implement programmes that foster developmental outcomes on a national and global scale. As the Director of Programmes at Rivonia Circle, Tessa passionately champions political participation to reinvigorate democracy in South Africa. Tessa's diverse skills, honed through roles such as Managing Director of Youth Lab and service in the National Planning Commission of South Africa, contribute to knowledgegenerating spaces that are evidence-based, co-created, inclusive, and dynamic.



DEBORAH DIEDERICKS

As EMpower's Senior Programme Officer for South Africa, Deborah plays a key role in supporting a diverse South African portfolio focusing on mental health strengthening for young people. Deborah is a seasoned professional with 15+ years of experience in the development and mental health sector in South Africa. She has a successful track record in leading efficient and effective processes in the non-profit sector; successfully making the transition between a local non-profit and an international grant maker. Deborah has refined and executed a strategy on mental health and resilience in South Africa, growing the portfolio significantly.



CHRISTINE DOWNTON

Christine brings a wealth of experience from an investing and banking background to her dedicated work in education in South Africa. Passionate about the transformative power of education, she has committed herself to making a positive impact in this field. Currently serving as a Board member of the Learning Trust, Christine actively contributes to shaping educational initiatives and strategies. Her multi-faceted background in finance and her longstanding dedication to education make her a valuable advocate for driving positive change in South Africa's educational landscape.



KRISTAL DUNCAN-WILLIAMS

Kristal is the Project Lead at Youth Capital, an advocacy campaign that aims to catalyse a South Africa where all young people can access earning opportunities. A Mandela Rhodes Scholar, Kristal is a researcher and an advocate for youth development. She has over ten years' experience in research-driven advocacy and is passionate about making data accessible and engaging for everyone. Kristal's work focuses on unlocking the untapped potential of young South Africans. She believes that quality education, healthcare, and employment are the critical building blocks for a thriving society.



SHUVAI FINOS

Shuvai holds a Master's degree in Philosophy in Development Studies and a Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Cape Town. She joined IkamvaYouth as a Branch Coordinator for the Nyanga branch in 2012, utilising her social work skills and empowering learners and volunteers. Shuvai later transitioned to her current role as Project Manager for IkamvaYouth. In this capacity, she oversees major organisational projects and leads a team of national administrators. With over a decade of experience in the South African After School sector, Shuvai is passionate about creating efficient processes and fostering the development of individuals to their full potential.



WAYDE GROEP

Wayde is responsible for Knowledge Management and Communication for the Youth and After School Programme Office at the Western Cape Government, with extensive experience in youth development, training, and communications. His expertise includes programme and curriculum design, strategic communication, and stakeholder management. Committed to delivering exceptional results, he specialises in building brand presence, nurturing partnerships, and contributing to innovative programme designs. He has previously worked as the Training Manager for the After School Game Changer in the WCG.



SIBONGILE KHUMALO

Sibongile, the Executive Director of The Learning Trust, plays a pivotal role in supporting the After School sector in South Africa by fostering the development of quality practitioners and building sustainable organisations. With extensive experience in the development sector, her passion lies in identifying and nurturing human potential. Sibongile's diverse expertise spans grant-making, organisational leadership, fundraising, team building, bursary/scholarship management, and positive youth leadership development.



TEBOGO LOATE

Tebogo, a seasoned entrepreneur in the digital field, brings 15 years of expertise in the ICT industry, ranging from corporate sales to startup environments. Having cofounded an ERP SI and a business consulting startup, his entrepreneurial journey is marked by innovation and adaptability. Since founding a social enterprise group in 2012, Tebogo has actively contributed to transformative initiatives in rural and township communities. Currently heading Lefa Co-op, his latest project focuses on building a cooperative digital network that fosters shared value relationships between corporate brands and communities, emphasizing digital skills programs to prepare youth for the challenges of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR).



SIPUMELELE LUCWABA

Sipumelele is the Secretariat of both the Reading Panel and the Right to Read. She has experience on both funding, adjudication and implementation at both a small-scale and a national level having worked for Tshikululu Social Investments, the National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT), and as Head of Strategy at Funda Wande. She is currently a fellow of the Binding Constraints Lab and is pursuing her PhD in Law at the University of Pretoria focusing on the Right to Read and Write.



SIXOLILE MABOMBO

As the Board Chair of The Learning Trust, Sixolile provides strategic leadership, overseeing governance and sustainability. With over 15 years of experience in financial, operational, programme, and project management and holding the designation of Chartered Management Accountant (CIMA), they have held influential roles at the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation, Absa Group, Deloitte, and Edge Growth. Passionate about fostering collaboration, independence, and creativity among stakeholders, they are dedicated to enabling organisations to achieve their goals sustainably, ethically, and uniquely.



ZOE MANN

Zoe, the Programme Director of The Learning Trust, is a visionary thinker with a strong dedication to social transformation through human and organisational development. Her expertise spans a diverse range of skills, knowledge, and experience, particularly in conceptualising projects, managing multi-stakeholder collaborations, and leading teams to achieve ambitious long-term growth and impact targets. Zoe's commitment to driving positive change and her strategic approach to operational excellence make her a valuable leader in the pursuit of The Learning Trust's mission.



MOITSHEPI MATSHENG

Moitshepi is a dedicated social innovator with a focus on designing sustainable solutions for youth development. As the co-founder and Managing Director of the Botswana-based Youth Impact, she is committed to bridging the gap between academic evidence in health and education and its translation into scaled policy and practice. Youth Impact is a youth-led movement making a significant impact across ten countries, reaching 100,000 youth. Moitshepi is also the Chairperson of Botswana's National Youth Council.



ALEF MEULENBERG

Alef, an entrepreneur and visionary, has co-founded successful impact-driven organisations, both non-profit and for-profit. Solving systemic challenges through innovative marketing-creating solutions is Alef's passion, demonstrated by his extensive track record since starting his first venture at age 21. His diverse background spans business administration, venture capital, education, social entrepreneurship, non-profit management, purpose-driven leadership, philosophy, and theology.



VIKA MJOKA

Vika is Programme Manager at Lalela's Centre of Arts and Innovation. Lalela provides educational arts for youth from under-resourced communities, sparking creative thinking and awakening an entrepreneurial spirit. Vika is an accredited arts administration professional who has a track record that covers every aspect of grassroots arts development. He was part of a team that implemented a social cohesion curriculum across the nine provincial Departments of Education from 2017 to 2019 reaching more than 3500 teachers and benefiting more than 12 000 school learners. He is well recognised in the visual arts industry as a premium arts administrator, artist coach, arts facilitator and a leader in the arts sector.



BONGIWE MLANGENI

Bongiwe is an independent consultant specialising in leadership, systems coaching and facilitation, and strategic communications. She has consulted for clients such as the Ford Foundation, Southern Africa Office; the Institute of Security Studies, Mental Wellness Institute, and the Centre for Mental Wellness, among others. A postgraduate alumnus of the London School of Economics and Wits Business School, she also holds a Master of Management degree with a focus on Public Policy from the Wits University. She serves on the boards of three non-profits and is a fellow of the Africa Leadership Initiative, and a member of the Aspen Global Leadership Network.



DR NOMPUMELELO MOHOHLWANE

Dr Nompumelelo Nyathi-Mohohlwane is an education researcher working as a Deputy Director in the Research Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate at the national Department of Basic Education, South Africa. The unit is responsible for system monitoring, research, and evaluation of education interventions and policies. She is part of the research team for the government-led Early Grade Reading Study randomised control trials (2015-2018, 2018-2021). She has been leading the work to develop reading benchmarks in all South African language. Nompumelelo has a PhD in Education Policy from the University of Stellenbosch where she focused on language in education policies. She is also a Centre for Global Development non-resident fellow.



JOY OLIVIER

Joy is a seasoned social entrepreneur committed to fighting inequality and poverty. She co-founded Ikamvayouth, an ASP currently based in seven provinces where she served as director for 15 years, channelling her passion for learning and innovative problem-solving to empower youth through education. With a diverse academic background in Psychology, Education, and ICT, Joy's knowledge forms a cornerstone of her commitment to transformative initiatives. She is a Binding Constraints Lab (BCL) Fellow and has founded a medicinal cannabis business, Botanican.



EUGENE PELTERET

Eugene graduated with a Masters degree in Business Administration from the Edinburgh Business School, Heriot-Watt University. He has extensive experience leading high-impact social enterprises in South Africa and co-founded Reflective Learning, an online platform which helps more than 80 000 students catch up their gaps in Maths understanding. He is also the co-founder of 1st Access, an innovative hardware solution to make technology-based learning accessible to more students. He is passionate about delivering inclusive and quality education across South Africa and beyond.



KATE PHILIP

With a 30-year career, Kate has dedicated her expertise to employment creation strategies, focusing on unemployment, economic marginalisation, and inequality. Kate is currently the Programme Lead at the Presidential Employment Stimulus. Her experience ranges from supporting small enterprise development to addressing systemic-level concerns. Passionate about understanding the economy's impact, Kate played a key role in designing the Community Work Programme, and now supports public employment programmes and contributes to courses on innovation and more!



CHARLENE PETERSEN-VOSS

Charlene is an experienced Project Manager with a strong background in public policy, showcasing a track record of successful engagements. Her skills span Social Inclusion, Higher Education, Community Development, Training & Development, and Social Development. Currently serving as the Special Projects Manager at The Learning Trust, Charlene brings a strategic and results-driven approach to her role. She leads the Social Employment Fund initiative which is a collaboration between multiple stakeholders including ASPs and government.



JOANNA REYNOLDS

Joanna is the Head of Education at Axium, an NGO working in the rural Eastern Cape with the goal of raising student achievement in rural South African communities. Joanna has a background in Mathematics and English teaching at a high school level, and has worked with rural students and community members in various capacities over the past five years. In her current role, she oversees the strategic direction of educational programmes from Foundation Phase literacy programmes through to teacher and principal development initiatives. She is excited about working hand in hand with local team members to develop world-class programmes rooted in localised experiences and skills.



KRISTEN THOMPSON

Kristen, currently an independent researcher and strategic advisor, has co-authored the position paper titled: 'Leveraging public employment and After School Programmes to deliver multiple outcomes for learners, youth, and society'. Before consulting, she served as the leader of Numeric, a non-profit organisation dedicated to providing maths support to learners from low-income communities and developing the next generation of teachers. Kristen brings valuable insights and a wealth of experience to the discussion.



JACKSON TSHABALALA

Jackson is an Engagement Manager at the LEVA Foundation, a non-profit organisation dedicated to unlocking opportunities and empowering individuals through strategic initiatives. In this role, he cultivates strong relationships with stakeholders, overseeing global expansion efforts and identifying new markets and partnerships to drive growth. Passionate about creating a more inclusive future, Jackson holds a BA in Industrial and Organisational Psychology and a PGDip in Management Practices.



MARIO VAN NIEKERK

Mario van Niekerk, Managing Director and former gang member, resides in Heideveld with his wife Michelle and two sons, Zinedine and Isiah. Despite his challenging past in gang activity, becoming a father in 2001 prompted Mario to address the issues plaguing his community. He founded the non-profit organisation, Greater Commission United (GCU), dedicated to providing life-changing opportunities for disadvantaged youth in Heideveld. Through initiatives such as a multi-classroom Montessori ECD center and organized activities, Mario endeavors to combat youth gangsterism by offering positive alternatives and academic support.



JACOUI BOULLE

Jacqui Boulle is the Head of the Youth and After School Programme Office, Western Government. With a dedication to connecting youth to opportunities, Jacqui's focus encompasses youth service, ASPs and education beyond the traditional classroom setting. Notably, she spearheads the YearBeyond programme, designed for out-of-school youth, providing them with opportunities to engage in service as a stepping stone to further studies and work. Jacqui brings a wealth of knowledge and leadership experience to her position, complemented by an MBA from the University of Cape Town.



ZAMA ZULU

Zama, the Executive Director of Masinyusane, is passionate about transforming the lives of children and youth in impoverished communities through education and job creation. With over 20 years of experience in Sales and Operations, including a successful 10-year entrepreneurial journey, Zama brings a unique perspective to the non-profit space. A firm believer in the power of collaboration, Zama has forged strong partnerships with local businesses, schools, government agencies, and community organisations to advance his organisation's mission.

Thank you

Thank you for being an integral part of the AMPLIFY After School Symposium. Your presence enriches this gathering, and your commitment is truly appreciated. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for the time you've devoted, acknowledging the importance of your contributions in shaping the future of the after-school sector. Together, we amplify our impact, and your dedication is the driving force behind our shared success.

Get involved in the conversation on social media! Simply scan the QR code to seamlessly connect with us across all platforms. Your engagement is greatly valued



For more information, please email

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Visit us on:

www.thelearningtrust.org



