



# Les Voyages Extraordinaires #18

We make learning snapshots, walks and book studies for your iPad or tablet



**GESS**  
EDUCATION AWARDS  
WINNER  
2025

## QUICK NEMO TIP #1

### Filter your activities

On the dashboard in the top left corner, you'll see a filter button. Here you can filter all of your activities alphabetically, date, outcome and the number of contributions.



## QUICK NEMO TIP #2

### Activity Status

Click on any activity on the dashboard and you will now be able to view the status at a glance, presenting how many entries have been completed, as well as colour coded outcomes.



## QUICK NEMO TIP #3

### Assume Identity

Go to the Users area and click the 'Assume Identity' button to switch your device to someone else. Designed to save time when hosting learning walks with external visitors.



'Leadership is about making others better as a result of your presence and making sure that impact lasts in your absence.'  
Sheryl Sandberg

# Welcome to the Spring 26 Nautilus Newsletter



Dear School Leader,

I hope that you are well. It always feels a little optimistic saying that this is the 'spring term' when we may have just entered the new year. Still, it's good to know that the days will soon become longer and that there's much to look forward to. From a leadership perspective, this term is all about securing sustained improvement as the year unfolds. Having shared and implemented your development initiatives, it can arguably be more challenging to then see how you can sustain impact moving forwards. This will no doubt involve engaging all leaders, with the right tools and approaches for them to evaluate and collaborate.

In this issue you'll find lots of ideas to help you to secure effective distributed leadership. I always felt that this was one of the hardest things to achieve, given how busy class-based leaders can be. The last thing that I wanted to do was to increase workload. In fact, for this reason, I found subject and SEND leadership one of the biggest challenges and a big reason for creating Nautilus. Our Snapshots and book studies can help your team to quickly build a secure overview, provide same-day peer feedback and set expectations in their subject area.

You'll also see how we've integrated tools into the platform to aid inspection. This was a fascinating process, making sure that we avoided checklist-complacency-style learning walks, or doing anything solely for the benefit of 'evidence'. You'll see a thorough guide in this issue to help you to make the most of what you already do, rather than doing anything for the purpose of inspection.

Wishing you and your community a productive spring term,  
David and the Nautilus team  
Former Headteacher · LA SIP · Co-creator of Nautilus

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# New Features

## Tag Management

Settings > Tag Management

Priority Users can now see all of the tags that you have created in school. You can also merge tags if you have multiple versions to simplify filtering. You'll also see the trashcan icon to delete and unwanted tags.

Tag Name	Usage Count	Actions
KS2	148	
Writing	135	
EXF	93	
boys	54	

Resend welcome email to user

## Email Resend

Users > Envelope icon

If you've added any of your staff, but they haven't received the login email, you can resend from here.

## Email - Auto Populate

Walks > Envelope icon

One suggestion that we received from schools was the idea of using predictive text to automatically populate the feedback email recipient. With everyone on the system, this is a very quick and simple solution for immediate feedback.

Jules Verne Learning Academy

KS2 Science EX2 Berlin Dec 25 3.0 4/4

Leadership and Governance Nov 25 3.3 3/3

NOT STARTED	IN PROGRESS	COMPLETE
0	0	3
Jules Verne	Anneke Florence	COMPLETE ★ 3.2
Jules Verne	Athensia Dufranez	COMPLETE ★ 3.4
Jules Verne	Captain Name	COMPLETE ★ 3.2

11/8/25, 12:06 PM

Department : Maths

Name :  Visiting :

Survey : Learning Snapshot

Department : English

Name : Learning Snapshot Kirk Douglas 2026-01-06

Visiting : Kirk Douglas

Kirk Douglas

Email This Report

Send Cancel

## Quick Review

Walks > Envelope icon

When you click on any activity on the dashboard, you'll now see a concise status overview. Here you can view staff involved, progress, and outcomes. Useful for a quick overview of all of your activities.

## Confidentiality

Leadership User > Dashboard > Completed

Your Leadership Users will now only be able to click and view activities that they have completed themselves. Any walks or activities completed by another person will feature in the dashboard data, but will not be accessible.

Jules Verne Learning Academy

English KS2 City of Fire	1/1
English Typing 1	3.3 1/1
English KS2 Our 20	1/1
KS2 English Ass 31/34	4/4

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Sheryl Sandberg



# knowledge base

One click self-evaluation summaries for each inspection area.

## What is the Knowledge Base?

The Knowledge Base is a new feature that enables school leaders to create self-evaluation reports directly from the learning walks, observations, and monitoring that they already do. Each report is aligned specifically to evidence every area of your own inspection framework.

## How does it work?

After performing your existing walks, lesson visits, book studies, and surveys, the Knowledge Base will generate one-click reports for each inspection area, using the content from your evaluations and feedback. Each report is constructed using AI, searching for and identifying specific content and sentiment, and adding quotes and links for credibility. These reports can be updated, saved, and downloaded periodically.

## What is it used for?

Firstly, it's for you. The priority is that it can collate insights and present them in a very useful way, good for school improvement purposes and incredibly efficient. This means that 'evidence' becomes the by-product of what you already do.

## What are the benefits?

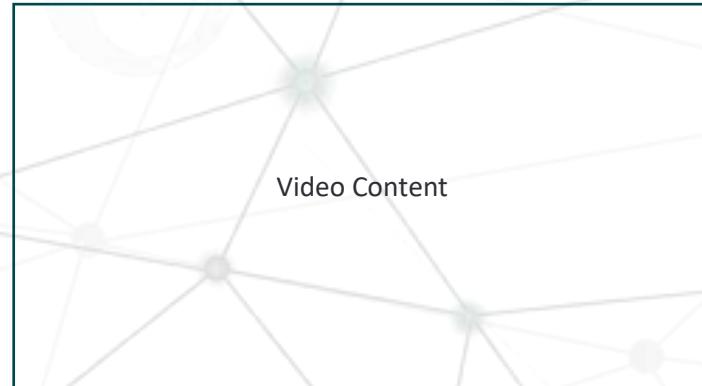
Insight. The assurance that you have clarity and confidence. You don't have to do anything differently, such as checklist learning walks using inspectorate judgements. The strategic benefits are explicit: you can always maintain a clear view of standards in school. The report also presents strengths and areas for consideration, enabling you to follow up these lines of enquiry.

Time. The Knowledge Base is a significant development when seeking to save leaders time and enable them to know more. We think this is the real sweet spot. Remember, the AI is not trawling the internet, it's taking content from your last 1,000 activities and presenting it in a simple and consistent one-page report.

## How do we use it?

1. Perform you walks, observation and monitoring as usual. As you do, incorporate the key terms and themes from your inspection framework. This helps the AI to draw upon these. For example, using the feedback 'A very good example of curriculum adaption. #inclusion' will then enable this feedback to contribute to any curriculum or inclusion reports.
2. Head to the Knowledge Base. Select your inspection framework or add your own. Click 'Run All Evaluation Areas'. You will then see each area of your inspection framework whirr, with prompts flashing to say that your reports are ready. You can generate these individually or all.
3. View, edit save and download your self-evaluation reports.

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# Adding Users - Improvement



Head to the Users area and click 'Add User'.

We've updated how you add users to the system. Previously, when adding anyone, there were a number of choices to navigate. We wanted to make this simpler and quicker. When you add a user to Nautilus, you'll only need to do it once. You can then upgrade them as you go, adding responsibilities and roles.

It's not only quicker and simpler, but it's also a great way to involve your team as you build capacity. With this quick guide, you can learn what a User can access and use before upgrading them to a Leadership User.

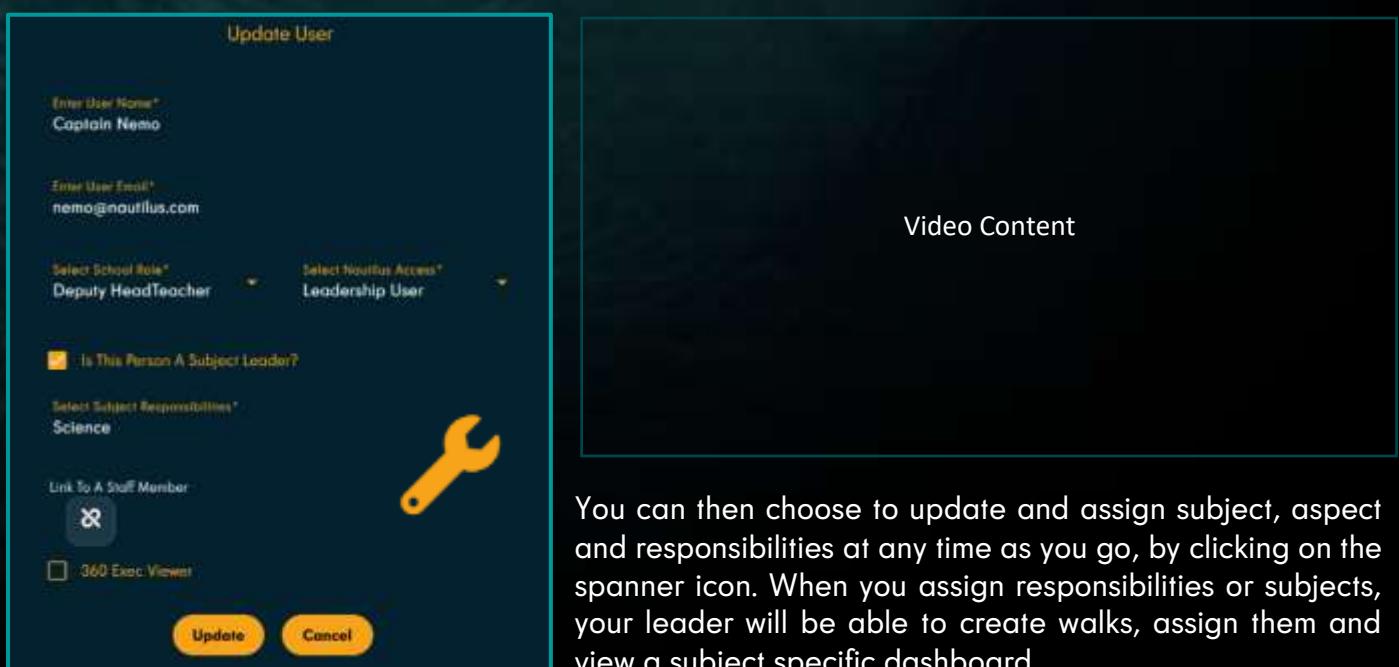


Enter the name of your colleague along with their email address

The system will then send them out an email to log in, with a simplified 'User' view.

- Users will see four buttons when they login. They can perform activities assigned to them, or individual lesson visits and books studies using the GO button.
- Users can view any feedback that they have recorded in their Workflow, ready to share.
- They can also view the Gallery, to see the best practice in school or submit content.
- Users do not have a dashboard or access to any analysis or data.

This access is more than enough to enable your staff member to contribute, share feedback and utilise the Gallery.



You can then choose to update and assign subject, aspect and responsibilities at any time as you go, by clicking on the spanner icon. When you assign responsibilities or subjects, your leader will be able to create walks, assign them and view a subject specific dashboard.

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## Feature



## 5 Great Ways To Capture Inclusion

With a significant emphasis on inclusion, schools are now seeking effective ways to be able to evaluate all of the great work that they already do. Here are 5 efficient approaches to help all of your team to contribute, with simple, integrated hacks that enable everyone to inform leaders and build a secure overview of your provision.

### 1. Use the SEND Evaluation and Feedback learning walk

This particular learning walk framework is designed to enable busy SENDcos and ALNcos to get into classrooms, capture, evaluate support and advise. It's a great way to build capacity and to assess effectiveness. We would advise that this walk is performed once a term, to offer teacher feedback and build a longer-term statistical picture. Use Nemo, your dashboard AI assistant to summarise for you.

### 2. Tag Your Activities

Use tags when you prepare a focused learning walk, book study or lesson visit. This will then enable you to filter using this tag in the dashboard. Tag with 'SEND', 'Pupil Premium', 'Disadvantaged' or any other related keywords to gain more from your insights.

### 3. Use Photo and Video

It doesn't have to be the SEND leader that captures progress for pupils with additional needs, everyone can. Encourage your team capture learning and outcomes for all children, using additional tags like 'SEND', 'ALN', 'LAC' 'Disadvantaged' or 'Pupil Premium' in addition to their subject specific and year group tags. Your leaders will thank you when they use these filters in the Gallery and see examples of learning submitted by all subject leaders. Great also for your Governors to learn more.

### 4. Use Hashtags for Your Knowledge Base

As you perform activities and enter your responses, use inclusion hashtags to enable the Knowledge Base to use content for your evaluation reports. Any content submitted in this way helps the system AI to utilise this information. Example, 'I love the way that you have adapted the learning. #SEND #Inclusion'

### 5. Create One-Click Knowledge Base Self-Evaluation Reports

Now that your team are starting to sharpen their contributions, collecting insights and outcomes, you can now generate Inclusion reports in your Knowledge Base. Head to the KBase and click 'Run All Evaluation Areas'. You will now see your reports being generated, collating insights from your evaluations and feedback.

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TRY NAUTILUS FOR FREE!

## Trial with a Tour?

We understand the pressures that schools face, both financially and when considering purchases. To minimise risk, save time and learn more, we'd recommend a trial and demo. Creating your account takes minutes, and with a trial, you'll be ready to capture in no time. Or you could take a look at our demo video, with quick view chapters to help you to skim and revisit.

[Access the 30 day trial and book in your demo](#)

Video Content

## Sport Premium – Our Best Kept Secret!

Why not use Nautilus to save money and develop effective PE leadership?

Why not use your Sport Premium funding to subscribe? You'll receive the full Nautilus subscription plan, plus 3 specialised Sport Premium frameworks and 3 CPD webinar sessions. In each session, we'll show PE leaders how to capture and evaluate your PE provision, and how develop their subject area. We'll also cover impact reporting too, so that you can justify your decision.

We know how much PE takes place in schools and how challenging it can be to do justice to this provision. We also know that schools are seeking to use their Sport Premium funding effectively. We can help you to build a video Gallery of learning and outcomes, evaluate teaching and learning, prioritise staff development, and plan strategically. As a headteacher, you will be able to see all of your PE insights grow on your dashboard and Gallery.

Email us today at [enquiries@nautilus.education](mailto:enquiries@nautilus.education) for more information.

## SPORT PREMIUM INTRODUCING THE PE LEADERSHIP TOOLKIT

After rolling out your curriculum, resourcing and providing staff CPD, how do you plan to secure impact?

### PE Learning Snapshot

Efficient · Accurate · Evaluative



Part of the Sports Premium Subject Leader Toolkit



### PE Lesson Study

Collaborative · Focused · Developmental



Part of the Sports Premium Subject Leader Toolkit

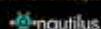


### PE Pupil Survey

Efficient · Success · Progress



Part of the Sports Premium Subject Leader Toolkit



Capture and Evaluate with Your iPad or Tablet



Includes Video-Capture



[nautilus.education](http://nautilus.education)

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FREE Webinar

# THE ULTIMATE LEARNING WALK

## Capture and Evaluate with an iPad or Tablet

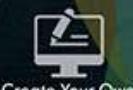
Dashboard Analysis



Photo + Video Capture



Collaborative



Create Your Own

Pupil Views



AI Reporting

10

10 Minute Lesson Visits



PDF Reports



### Ultimate Learning Walk - Featured Webinar

Lots of schools like the idea of learning walks, but how much time has been dedicated to developing and designing a successful approach? Are your learning walks efficient, feedback orientated, and more importantly, do they impact?

In this webinar we'll deconstruct a typical learning walk, considering what makes a successful lesson visit, and how this contributes to a series of focused, short, informal observations - as well as a more substantial, strategic overview. Select the date that you would prefer, and if you can't make it, don't worry. We'll send the video link through to you afterwards. [Learn More · Book](#)

**DON'T OBSERVE, CAPTURE!** - Who? Teachers, leaders and new users  
 A one hour 'how to' workshop, walking you through the platform. [LEARN MORE · BOOK](#)

**SUPER SUBJECT LEADERS** - Who? Subject Leaders, headteachers and Principals  
 Solutions and ideas for busy subject leaders. Introducing the subject leadership toolkit, learning snapshots, book studies and more. [LEARN MORE · BOOK](#)

**SMARTER SEND** - Who? SENDcos, ALNcos and headteachers  
 Exploring ways to enable SENDcos to get back classrooms. How to capture and evaluate provision, advise and support colleagues. [LEARN MORE · BOOK](#)

**A CLEAR HEAD** - Who? Headteachers, Principals and Executive Headteachers  
 Creating efficient and effective approaches for your teachers and leaders. Securing sustainable, distributed leadership. [LEARN MORE · BOOK](#)

**THE 10 MINUTE LEARNING WALK** - Who? Teachers and school leaders  
 How to perform an effective, short lesson visit, packed with insight. Covering the process, design and principles as well as focusing on feedback opportunities and impact. [LEARN MORE · BOOK](#)

**HIGH LIFE** - Who? High school leaders  
 How to efficiently quality assure your secondary provision using your iPad or tablet. Using dashboard analysis and AI reports to secure impact, providing same-day peer feedback. [LEARN MORE · BOOK](#)

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BRITISH  
SCHOOL  
OF VALENCIA

Jake Capper, Headteacher BSV

British School of Valencia (BSV) is a prestigious private British school located in the heart of the city centre of sunny Valencia. The school has two campuses and serves more than 1000 students aged between 2 - 18. The school offers a traditional British Curriculum

which includes IGCSE's and A-Levels. The British curriculum is studied alongside the Spanish Bachillerato which enable students to choose a variety of pathways into higher education. The school, whilst British in its educational offer, has a truly international make up with more than 70 nationalities represented across the school.

### Q. What makes your school special?

I believe our school is special not only because of our academic successes but because of the way it feels when you walk around, the smiles on the faces of our students and staff, the atmosphere in classrooms and enthusiasm in which students' approach everything. One of our parents described it well in a recent Voice of Parent Survey saying: "We love the family atmosphere at the school as well as the excellent academic level and the individual approach to student needs". Also, when considering what makes our school truly special, it's clear that all the positive aspects mentioned above are not only present but actively lived on a daily basis. This is reflected in the fact that, at the recent Cognita Annual Summit, BSV picked up two highly converted O awards. The first linked to one of the company's mission statements "WE BELIEVE WE CAN" and the second "GREAT PLACE TO WORK" which we were all very proud of. This clearly demonstrates that we are on the right path and that our work is being recognised.



### Q. What does good school leadership look like?

This is a huge question, and we could explore many areas in response to this question. For me in its simplest terms it's making the right decisions at the right times thus ensuring change is managed mindfully and can make the desired impact. The key principle I follow when thinking about this question is: do leaders know where the school is on its journey? Clearly if there are things that are broken or present risk then immediate intervention is needed. However, if the majority of systems, processes and outputs are working, then it's looking at those things around the margins, the 1% which make the school that little bit better for both students and staff.

This brings me to a Headteacher with whom I spent most of my time as a leader, and whose thinking has stayed with me. Once we are clear about where our school is and what we are aiming to improve, there is one key question we should always ask when considering change: will it make the boat go faster?

Education is constantly presented with new initiatives, all claiming to improve outcomes in one way or another. Great leaders know how to filter these pressures. They reflect carefully on the needs of the school and the capacity of their team, and only then ask the essential question: will this genuinely make us better? If the answer is no, then we must ask ourselves why we are considering it at all.

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## Q. What is the secret to sustainable school improvement?

The secret to sustainable school improvement for me is centred around need, timing, and capacity. I believe it's vital for leaders to know their school and know it well, once you have a granular understanding you can start to analyse what is necessary to take the school forward. From here it's about timing and linked to timing, this doesn't mean using or trying to implement something reactively, it means having the confidence to step back, take time to line up your ducks and to create a plan focusing on how it will be implemented in school. The final element is capacity, where is this coming from, who are the shining talents in school, eager to showcase what they can do or to take an idea and run with it.

I also believe that change is a vital element of sustainable school improvement. However, when considering change, it's just as important to reflect on what we can remove as it's on what we might add. Returning to the idea of making the boat go faster, it's clear that progress is impossible if we are weighed down by an excess of initiatives, all delivered to a mediocre standard rather than a few implemented with real impact.

## Q. Tell us about how you work in partnership with other schools?

Cognita has more than 100 schools globally so we are very familiar with working together and supporting each other. We have ten schools in Spain, and we work extremely closely meeting up 3 times per year formally as Headteachers and school leaders but much more informally enabling school visits for aspiring leaders, peer reviews, showcasing of best practice and knowledge animation. My background prior to headship was leading one of the early wave teaching schools which really helped me to see the benefits of working collaboratively with as many schools as possible. If my staff can showcase their practice to others, it supports them in feeling confident and recognised for their hard work and endeavour. I also appreciate the importance of being able to send my staff to other schools to gain wider experiences and be exposed to different practices which challenge their thinking and encourage them to try new things.

## Q. How does Nautilus support the work that you do?

Whilst we are in the early stage of using Nautilus we were already on the journey of high-quality observation and feedback for staff. What Nautilus has done though has enabled us to move more quickly towards our overall aim of reducing the variation in the quality of teaching and learning across the school. Being able to set up quick, targeted learning walks which provide easy access to individual and whole school analysis we can very quickly identify where things are working well but also highlight areas where we need to have a greater focus. Once we have completed year 1, we start to be more nuanced and focused with the system looking at its full range of capabilities using the gallery, surveys, and departmental Q&A.



## Q. Do you think innovation is important in education?

**In a single word, yes — but with a balanced approach.** On the back of COVID, digital technology was rolled out rapidly, with many platforms eager for schools to buy into the digital wave. What we are now seeing, particularly in Spain, is a move away from extensive digital use in favour of more traditional approaches.

As AI begins to establish itself within education, we are very aware of its potential to be a genuine game changer. It can support learners and help teachers deliver highly adapted lessons that truly meet the needs of all pupils. However, we remain clear that the quality of teaching is the single most important factor. Regardless of innovation, if we do not get this right, we will never achieve our full potential.

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# 'Best Digital Tool in Education'

Winner 2025

## GESS Education Awards – Dubai, UAE

This is all pretty new to us. We've been working with some schools in Dubai for a number of years, and thought that it was a good time to head out there, meet people and learn more about school life. We were also a finalist at the GESS Awards, which added to the excitement of the visit.



Here's our 5 take aways from a memorable and rewarding trip.

### TAKE-AWAY #1 – The School Visit

What was intended to be a short visit to the School of Research Science, ended up being a feedback discussion with Dr Nasim and the senior leaders to learn more about how they are using Nautilus as well as any potential developments. We talk about 'context being key' a lot in education, and despite any differences, the never-ending pursuit of school improvement remains the same. A tour offered a fascinating glimpse into the familiarity of school life. The staff, the priorities, the commitment to the children. A powerful reminder of the potential of global collaboration and the universal language of education.



### TAKE-AWAY #2 – The GESS Show

The GESS conference itself was a good chance to see what other educators are doing in the world of innovation and leadership. It's a great way to see what's out there, and to meet good people. I sat for a few minutes to take in one of the leadership presentations and ended up hooked. Great ideas, inspiration and discussions.



## TAKE-AWAY #4 – The GESS Awards

We attended the BETT show a few years ago as a finalist. Given the size of the companies that you're up against, it's a long shot. On that occasion, we had SKY and BBC Bitesize. This was no different in many ways. We were happy with the recognition for Nautilus, given the expertise within the judging panel. As we sat and listened for our category, and the host began to talk about the winner, pretty quickly it became clear that they were talking about us. A long walk up to the stage, to be presented with the 'Best Digital Tool in Education' award. Walking home, through the bright lights of downtown Dubai with this under my arm, was an unforgettable moment.



It's all about the lucky socks.

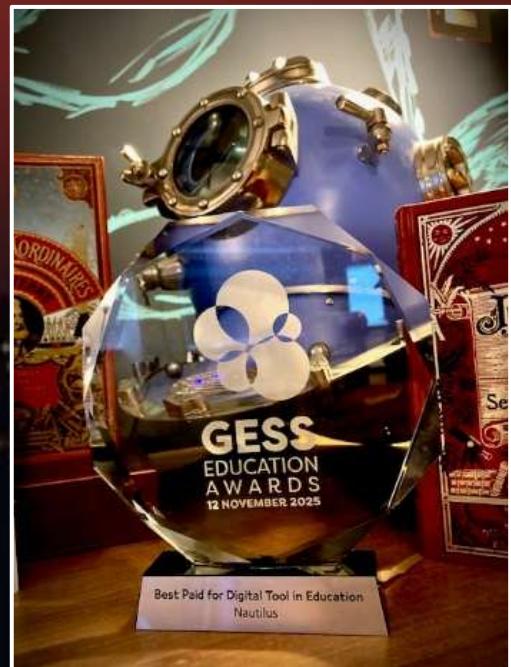


## TAKE-AWAY #3 – The City

If you're considering teaching abroad, I can understand the appeal. As mentioned, there's many similarities to the classrooms and corridors here in the UK, but the climate and culture has plenty to offer. It was surreal to leave Manchester in the rain and experience 31 degrees. Dubai is all about innovation and vision, from the architecture to the lifestyle. It's an impressive and ambitious place.

## TAKE-AWAY #5 – The People

It's fair to say that it's a long way from home, and this was a voyage of discovery. This was a reminder that education is more than a job. The people involved care deeply, and are passionate about practice and ideas. This was an opportunity to become immersed in discussions and ideas. As a headteacher, I'd always had little time to learn and reflect. Social media goes some way to bring educators together, but there's nothing like the real thing. I felt fortunate to meet so many great people, to share experiences and thoughts about the future of education, adding real depth to a memorable visit.

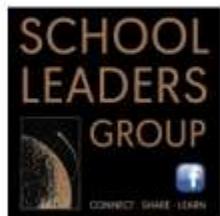




Two simple, light-touch Learning Snapshots, incorporating the key themes from the new Ofsted framework.

Capture the views of your pupils at the same time, for a more secure evaluation.

Use the key words and themes in your responses, use your Knowledge Base to create your one-click self-evaluation.



Download free today from our Nautilus Facebook community 'Around the Moon'

DOWNLOAD TODAY!



- Visit 'Around the Moon', our [Facebook school leadership community](#)
- Click on the FILES tab, select and download.
- Go to the Builder and click 'Import Survey'.

This new framework is now ready to use or share. You can also update or amend the content once you've imported it.

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