

AI keeps beckoning

Roy Blatchford

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Five years ago I wrote the following as part of [The Three Minute Leader](#).

The extraordinary becomes the commonplace – at a faster and faster rate. Like the frog which slowly boils in the pan, realising too late that it is cooked, schools risk society's new technologies eluding them.

This decade will see health services transformed by AI and Big Data. What of schools? Facial and voice recognition as a feature of everyday organisation and practice?

The Generation Z students who are with us now live actual and virtual lives intertwined. Their social media habits and views on the climate-challenged world are set to impact significantly on how the adults lead.

Forward-looking leaders will set aside time with staff, students and governors to reflect on the lifestyles, technologies and everyday practices of their communities. Schools are conservative organisations in the best conserving traditions. They are also crucibles of change, powered by the young generation.

The problem with the almost tangible future is that the lead-in times are a killer.

It was the celebrated sci-fi author William Gibson (*Necromancer*, 1984) who cannily observed that the future is already here, but it's just not very evenly distributed. This is so true across and within school systems, home and abroad.

Much that is being produced for teachers leaves one thinking that AI is still *beckoning* in education. Contrast, just for a moment, what enormous investments are being made by global businesses in data centres to transform their ways of doing - and the dramatic emergence of DeepSeek.

And so, coming across Matt Esterman's work in Sydney made me sit up and wonder whether, at last, the *practical application* of AI in schools may well turn out to be *the* big educational step in 2025.

I commend this column to you: [Fire, aim, ready... Matt Esterman](#)

Roy Blatchford is editor of [The A - Z Collection](#) published by John Catt/ Hachette.