Priya Lakhani OBE, Founder CEO, CENTURY Tech

Biography: Founder CEO of CENTURY Tech, Priya Lakhani is passionate about implementing artificial intelligence, machine learning and blockchain in education, learning and development. Priya has been a member of the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills’ Entrepreneurs’ Forum and an advisory board member to several educational/skills organisations. Priya was awarded Business Entrepreneur of the Year in 2009, The Mayor of London Fund’s Special Recognition Award 2016 and Officer of the Order of the British Empire in 2014.

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE

For decades artificial intelligence has been disrupting and improving most sectors of society and the economy, while until only recently education had remained largely untouched. AI is now being embraced in learning environments across the world, from leading English independent schools to Syrian refugees in the Middle East. AI-based tools are being used to improve both teaching and assessment at all levels of education, across all subjects, from primary schools to adult learning providers.

Artificial intelligence has the potential to transform education by moving away from the one-size-fits-all model that has led to stagnation in classrooms across the world. Learning platforms that use AI, like CENTURY, provide genuine adaptivity for students. By learning how each student learns, everyone in the classroom can learn at their own pace, while teachers are equipped with data insights and analysis to allow them to perform even better as educators. Not only is learning itself enhanced, but the automation of admin tasks like marking and planning frees up teachers’ time to actually teach.

The abundance of data made instantly-available can reassure parents that their child is adequately supported, challenged and making the progress they should be. Parents can use this to encourage home learning and become more involved in their child’s education.

By using AI to personalise learning, students’ individual strengths and weaknesses can be addressed by focussing them on the most important areas for their individual needs. Those struggling in an area are directed towards materials to help them improve, while those who are need stretch are pushed towards harder topics and more
complex questions. The dynamic system continually adapts based on student behaviours related to knowledge and skills, pace of learning, difficulty levels and memory function, among other factors.

Using CENTURY improves a student’s knowledge of a particular subject by 30%, while schools have attributed remarkable improvements on key metrics such as Progress 8 to its use. Teacher workload is reduced by an average of six hours per week, creating more time for teaching while improving teacher wellbeing.

Artificial intelligence’s benefits for student and teacher outcomes, low cost and ease of use, and its ability to be applied to any subject, curriculum or language in the world mean that it has the potential to transform education for students everywhere.