

## PRESS RELEASE

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### MACMILLAN EDUCATION AND BRITISH COUNCIL ANNOUNCE LANDMARK PARTNERSHIP

Updated: 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023 (Original release date: 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023)

**Macmillan Education partners with the British Council to launch new, end-to-end learning, teaching and assessment programmes.**

Macmillan Education has today announced the launch of a partnership with the British Council to deliver a suite of new end-to-end learning, teaching and assessment programmes, under the name **Advancing Achievement**. The initial launch of the programmes will be in selected markets with an international roll-out to follow.

Through **Advancing Achievement** programmes, education institutions will be able to offer leading English courses from Macmillan Education, alongside robust evidence of learner achievement through the British Council. Bringing together two of the world's most respected names in English language education, the partnership has a combined 270 years of experience and the ability to reach millions of learners in hundreds of countries worldwide.

**Advancing Achievement** strives to revitalise and redefine the meaning of success in the field of English language education, making it both more accessible and more inspiring for learners, teachers and parents. English in itself is no longer the end goal, but part of a whole system of empowerment that enables learners to think, dream and succeed on a bigger scale, participate actively in local and global communities, and take control of a future they choose for themselves.

To this end, the programmes build intrinsic motivation and confidence while delivering practical, future-facing learner outcomes. Strong emphasis is placed on creating positive learning and assessment environments that spark authentic engagement and nurture the natural human drive to communicate, collaborate and grow. Non-disruptive progress checks are embedded throughout each programme to ensure learning is on track, and at specific key points along the journey, British Council tests provide independent evidence of English ability. As they learn, students develop socially and emotionally, and are equipped with the full range of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills.

Teachers benefit from multi-layered evidence and insight into their learners' abilities, as well as high quality professional development opportunities and comprehensive support at every stage.

Underpinning the partnership itself and every programme are the vision and values that have fuelled the work of both partner organisations for many decades. **Advancing Achievement** strives to help learners progress into true global citizens with the communication and life skills – and recognised achievements – to build a bright, prosperous future for themselves, their communities and the world as a whole.

**Jeremy Diéguez, Macmillan Education's Managing Director, stated:**

*"This partnership with the British Council is a key step in our mission to advance learning. It represents a significant milestone in our dedication to making comprehensive English language solutions, covering content, technology, Teacher Professional Development, and now also assessment, available worldwide."*

**Mark Walker, Head of English & Exams, British Council, said:**

*"We know that English brings with it tremendous opportunities. Thanks to this partnership with Macmillan Education, we are able to bring pioneering approaches to assess English language skills to more younger learners than ever before. We are focused on developing teaching, learning and assessment solutions that reflect the English language demands of a modern world."*

### **Notes to Editor**

Visit [www.macmillanenglish.com/advancing-achievement](http://www.macmillanenglish.com/advancing-achievement) for more details about the *Advancing Achievement* programmes.

### **About Macmillan Education**

Macmillan Education is a global publisher for educational content, technology and teacher professional development. We help educational institutions empower students to shape their futures through English language and essential life skills. With 180 years of commitment to reading, learning and innovation, we lead the way in introducing themes of sustainability, diversity, inclusion and global citizenship into English language programmes. Our solutions for language learning reach over 10 million teachers and learners around the world.

### **About the British Council**

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We support peace and prosperity by building connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK and countries worldwide. We work with people in over 200 countries and territories and are on the ground in more than 100 countries. In 2021-22 we reached 650 million people.

