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## Tomorrow's teachers must learn to exploit digital technology

**Teachers today are poor at utilising the benefits of new digital technology. Children and young people want to learn by using new media and new technology – not just by reading books. In future, schools must focus on better equipment and on improving the technical skills of teachers. That was the message delivered by Lord Puttnam when he addressed the World Summit in Karlstad, Sweden, today.**

“When young people try to land a plane in a flight simulator they do it again and again until they manage it. Why are they less determined when it comes to other areas of knowledge and things that are difficult to learn? Teachers and educationalists should be asking this question,” says Lord Puttnam.

Lord Puttnam believes that young people face a future of bigger and tougher challenges than any previous generation. They will need to tackle climate change, population increase, war and other conflicts. Schools will have to prepare them for this and so the teaching system will have to change.

“Young people expect to learn in the environment that they have become used to – the Internet and a world in which they can communicate and share knowledge without borders,” says Lord Puttnam.

“If schools fail to change then the gap will grow between how children want to learn and how schools want to teach. It would be a betrayal of young people if we don't prepare them to meet the challenges of the future,” says Lord Puttnam.

“Education does not have to take place in a classroom. By using Skype, for example, English children could get help with their French homework from French schoolchildren, or they could get in touch with a Nobel prize-winner to get help with a maths problem,” says Lord Puttnam.

**More information:** *David Puttnam* has been chairman of Columbia Pictures and is the producer of major films such as *Midnight Express*, *The Killing Fields* and the Oscar-winning *Chariots of Fire*. He is highly active in the debate concerning education, film and media. He started Skillset, which trains young people to become members of the film and television industries and aims to maintain the UK's position among the world's leading film producing nations.

*World Summit on Media for Children and Youth* is a world conference held every three years. Since its inauguration in 1995 in Melbourne, the summit has visited London, Thessaloniki, Rio de Janeiro and Johannesburg. 2010 is the first year that the summit has been held in Scandinavia – and in Karlstad.

Read more about the World Summit and download the Summit Programme at:  
<http://www.wskarlstad2010.se>.

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