Grainne:

0:06

Today we are at a revolutionary crossroads where technology and education intersect like never before. We are at a point where learning transcends the traditional classroom and rigid structures. We now have the capacity to deliver learning in a flexible, engaging way that is tailored to individual needs—a true democratization of education.

0:36

When I was young, I could never have dreamed of this. I grew up on a small farm in the northwest of Ireland, a beautiful place in the world, a place that has inspired poets and dreamers for centuries—people like W.B. Yeats. It is also the place where I went to the one small school in my area, with eight other students in my class. I walked to and from school every day, regardless of the weather, and the weather in the northwest of Ireland is not always kind.

1:18

I am the first in my family to attend university—a privilege that many, including my mom and dad, never had. It is this background that fuels my passion for delivering learning everywhere and to everyone. Education has provided me a world of opportunity, adventure, travel, innovation, and entrepreneurship. From a small farm in Ireland to a remote village in India, you now have the power to learn and grow literally in the palm of your hand.

2:04

You will have heard that talent is distributed evenly, but opportunity is not. I say, "Until now." As we look at the ancient Greek classrooms and the one-room classrooms of the 19th century, education has always adapted to the needs of its time. In the 20th century, with the advent of computers and the internet, we began to learn differently and interact with information differently.

2:49

Today, we are on the brink of another educational revolution—a powerful combination of AI and gamification. This combination not only enhances learning but fundamentally changes it.

3:09

Why gamification? Research in education technology tells us that gamification taps into our intrinsic motivation, providing us with a learning experience that is fun and engaging. Think about the games you play; they're fun and rewarding. We can take these elements and add them to education

through leaderboards, achievements, and interactive challenges. We can take learning from a task to an adventure.

3:47

Now let's imagine we can sprinkle a little AI magic dust on that. AI will allow personalized learning at the individual style and pace. What if every student or learner could receive personalized feedback in real time, and we could do this at scale? What if content could be adapted according to individual needs?

4:24

This is not just technology for technology's sake; this is about creating meaningful, engaging learning experiences. This is also about addressing real industry problems and productivity. All over the world, there is a significant gap between what industry needs and the digital skills of employees.

4:46

Imagine if we could deliver learning just in time, as industries evolve and just when employees need it. Who wouldn't love to do compliance training in the palm of their hand in a fun, engaging way? The opportunities are immense, but we must also consider the practical and equity considerations: data privacy. How do we protect people's data? Digital equity. How do we ensure everyone has access to these technologies?

5:39

With 86% of the world owning a smartphone, we no longer have any excuses. We must level up learning and opportunity for everybody.

5:55

So what does the future hold? I envision a dynamic, lifelong learning ecosystem where AI and gamification converge. In this future, learning is evolving, continuous, and tailored to individual needs.

6:15

So, policymakers, instructors, innovators, and entrepreneurs—we all need to come together. I'm going to come and knock on your door. Education is not just an individual right; it is the foundation on which resilient, thriving societies are built.

6:39

Education has the power to change lives. If 86% of the population can hold a smartphone, they hold the key to unlocking learning, growth, and opportunity—quite literally in the palm of their hand.

7:02

So when education is truly democratized, it is not just individuals who benefit; whole communities, industries, and societies are lifted. We all rise.

7:19

So let's not wait. Let's embrace these amazing technologies we have in the palm of our hands because the future of learning should belong to us all.

7:35

Thank you.