

CODE **8704**

**ABOUT THIS COURSE**

Stepping-up to lead a Sociology is an exciting opportunity. Good leadership can transform the experiences and outcomes of staff and students. Building a united team with consistently strong teaching, learning and assessment is an essential role of a Head of Department. This new course examines the specific challenges faced by leaders of Sociology and the strategies needed to be a successful Head of Department. Delegates will gain an understanding of the features of an Outstanding Sociology Department and take away practical strategies to set-up and run their own departments.

**PROGRAMME**

**Defining the role: What is middle leadership and its key challenges**

TIME  
10.00 – 11.00am

- What are the challenges of leading a Sociology Department?
- What kind of leader are you
- Being accountable and making others accountable
- What are the main duties and responsibilities as a middle leader?
- How to build a team ethos
- Tips for successful leadership

Discussion: coffee break

11.00 – 11.15am

**Making your mark: Developing your curriculum (intent, implementation and impact)**

11.15 – 12.15pm

- Curriculum intent: Developing a vision and establishing your priorities
- Identifying areas for development in your new department and a plan of action to implement your changes
- Curriculum design: What do high quality resources look like in Sociology? What order of delivery and forms of assessment would facilitate excellent student outcomes?
- Effective implementation through setting up robust tracking systems to monitor student progress across the department
- Facilitating a positive impact on student outcomes across the department: Strategies to prepare students for examination success
- Having an impact on student experience: Inspiring and engaging students through trips, guest speakers, student societies and use of social media.

**Effective leadership: How to foster high expectations and deliver outstanding outcomes**

12.15 – 1.15pm

- Fostering a team and parity of student experience
- Strategies for establishing, maintaining and promoting high quality teaching, learning and assessment in Sociology
- Supporting your team with innovative and engaging teaching
- The importance of delegating and utilising the strengths of your staff
- Using data effectively for monitoring and feedback, to lead to outstanding student outcomes
- Get a “buzz” around Sociology through enrichment provision

Lunch and informal discussion

1.15 – 2.15pm

**Sustaining Quality: Dealing with challenging issues**

2.15 – 3.00pm

- Monitoring staff performance to ensure outstanding student outcomes across the department
- Challenging underperformance, sustaining excellence and maintaining standards
- How to best support staff professional development in line with departmental needs
- Dealing with difficult conversations

Discussion: afternoon tea

3.00 – 3.10pm

**Selling yourself: How to get the job!**

3.10 – 3.45pm

- How to write a winning personal statement for a Head of Sociology role
- How to best prepare for the interview day, dos and don'ts
- What makes an excellent micro-teach? How to showcase your talent.
- What types of questions will be asked at interview? What kinds of answers will score highly?

LOCATION/DATE

**London**

**Friday 15 October 2021**

**COURSE LEADER**

**Catherine Eariss** has 10 years' experience teaching and leading AQA A Level Sociology. She is currently Head of Subject of a very large Sociology and Psychology Department in a sixth form college in Hull. Student outcomes in Sociology are consistently Outstanding (ALPS 3). In 2021, the department gained status as the “Sociology Centre of Excellence”, delivering training sessions with teachers in the New Collaborative Learning Trust in Doncaster.

**WHO SHOULD ATTEND?**

- Teachers of Sociology
- Newly appointed leaders of Sociology
- Non-specialist leaders of Sociology

**BENEFITS OF ATTENDING**

- Gain the latest understanding of what makes an Outstanding leader of Sociology.
- Examine the challenges of middle leadership and develop strategies to overcome these.
- Get prepared to successfully lead a Sociology department; developing a vision, strategy and building a team.
- Obtain strategies to effectively run a Sociology department including improving teaching and learning, tracking student progress and managing underperformance.
- Examine ways to enhance student experience in Sociology to facilitate outstanding student outcomes.
- Tips and advice on how to be successful in job applications and interviews for a Head of Department role.