

Friday  
**10**  
**October**  
**2025**  
London

National Conference  
Code: C0009

Develop the  
leadership mindset,  
influence, and  
courage needed  
to thrive in today's  
challenging school  
environments



# READY, SET, LEAD!

## ASPIRING TO SENIOR LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2025

### SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

#### Patrick Cozier

Headteacher, Highgate  
Wood Secondary School,  
Leadership Coach and  
Mentor

#### Tim Hudson

Leadership and  
Development Expert

#### Guy Rands

Psychotherapist, Educator  
and Advocate

#### Helen Webb

Accredited Executive Coach

#### Dan Cowling

Headteacher,  
Oak Wood School

# CONFERENCE AIMS

This brand-new dynamic conference is designed to support aspiring and newly appointed senior leaders in secondary schools as they navigate the transition into high-impact leadership roles. Grounded in the realities of modern school life, the conference explores the mindset, skills, and values that distinguish outstanding senior leaders.

Through sessions led by experienced headteachers, leadership experts, and coaches, delegates will gain vital insights into strategic thinking, courageous decision-making, and the art of influencing beyond their immediate teams. The conference provides practical tools for managing complexity, leading with integrity, and sustaining personal wellbeing in high-pressure environments.

Whether you're stepping into your first senior role or considering your next career move, this conference will prepare you to lead with clarity, purpose, and confidence. You'll walk away with a deeper understanding of who you are as a leader, what you stand for, and how to move forward with impact.

## BENEFITS OF ATTENDING

- Gain a deep understanding of what senior leadership truly involves and reflect on the type of leader you want to become.
- Learn how to shift from middle leadership to a more strategic, visionary role, and avoid common early pitfalls.
- Develop practical skills to lead with integrity, navigate tough conversations, and make high-stakes decisions effectively.
- Explore sustainable strategies to manage workload, set boundaries, and support your own wellbeing in demanding roles.
- Identify your next steps, whether it's assistant headship, deputy roles, or specialist leadership, and create a personal development roadmap.
- Be inspired by experienced senior leaders, gain insights from real-world scenarios, and share strategies with like-minded colleagues.
- Walk away with actionable strategies, renewed motivation, and a sharper sense of purpose as you take the next step in your leadership journey.

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- Aspiring Senior Leaders
- Newly Appointed Senior Leaders
- Experienced Middle Leaders
- Heads of Year
- Heads Key Stage
- Pastoral Leaders
- SENCOs
- Inclusion Leads

## Delegate Rates

First delegate rate

**£349**

+ VAT

Additional delegates

**£279**

+ VAT



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# PROGRAMME

9.50am **Welcome & Introduction**

**Steve Smith**

Director of Professional Development,  
Keynote Educational

10.00am **Leading and Remaining Aligned to Your True Purpose, Despite the Challenges: The Calm Leadership Approach**

**Patrick Cozier**

Headteacher, Highgate Wood  
Secondary School, Leadership Coach  
and Mentor

- Adapting to the feeling of leadership - No one can prepare you for what it feels like
- Embracing the difficulty of leadership - It's difficult because it is supposed to be
- Leading with humility, integrity and honesty - Even when the pressures you face try to knock you off course
- Maintaining positivity and optimism in the face of the challenges of leadership - The importance for you and those that you lead
- Being the best leadership version of yourself - You are your own super-power!

11.00am **Break**

11.20am **Managing to Leading: Stepping Up**

**Tim Hudson**

Leadership and Development Expert

- Exploring the key differences between management and Leadership
- Shifting from operational to strategic thinking
- Learning how to influence beyond your immediate team or subject area
- Avoiding common pitfalls when transitioning to SLT roles

12.10pm **Making the Tough Calls: Difficult Conversations and Courageous Leadership**

**Guy Rands**

Psychotherapist, Educator and  
Advocate

- Lead with clarity and confidence in complex or sensitive situations
- Manage performance and behavioural issues with practical, compassionate tools
- Navigate courageous conversations with staff, parents, and peers
- Hold others to account while preserving trust, morale, and team cohesion
- Understand your personal conflict style and how to adapt it under pressure

1.00pm **Lunch**

2.00pm **Leading Under Pressure: Resilience, Boundaries, and Personal Wellbeing**

**Helen Webb**

Accredited Executive Coach

- Recognise the emotional toll of senior leadership and how to manage it
- Build strategies for maintaining personal wellbeing under pressure
- Learn how to set boundaries and manage workload sustainably
- Explore how to support others while staying grounded yourself

2.50pm **Break**

2.55pm **What's Next for You? Progression, Purpose, and Professional Growth**

**Dan Cowling**

Headteacher, Oak Wood School

- Reflect on your leadership journey and clarify your next steps
- Who are Headteachers looking for?
- Explore routes to assistant headship, deputy roles, or specialist leadership
- Build a personal development plan with short- and long-term goals
- Identify networks, mentors, and professional learning opportunities to support your growth

3.45pm **Depart**



## SPEAKERS



### Patrick Cozier

Patrick Cozier is a highly experienced Secondary School Headteacher of 18 and a half years. He leads Highgate Wood School in Haringey. In addition to his day job, he is a member of Headteacher's Roundtable who consult and advise senior officials on national education policy. He serves as a trustee of the national charity Show Racism the Red Card (on which he is Co-Vice Chair). More locally, he takes a leading role in the work of the Haringey Racial Equity Group (part of the Haringey Education Partnership) on its focus to reduce racial inequality and improve the outcomes and experiences for children of colour. As a member of the black community, he is passionate about seeking equality, justice and fair outcomes for people of colour. He is currently working on what he refers to as the 'Calm Leadership' Approach.



### Tim Hudson

Tim Hudson combines a unique set of skills and experience to support others to find creative and impactful solutions. Following his degree in management and entrepreneurship, he worked in performance consultancy and with elite athletes, supporting businesses, teams, and individuals to thrive under pressure. Working with young people is a passion, and he spent several years working in schools, including leading a boarding house and designing leadership programmes within educational settings. In the last few years, he has certainly challenged himself; he has had a book published (a particular goal as a diagnosed dyslexic who was book-phobic until adulthood), spoken at several conferences and has more recently qualified as a family mediator. He feels that mediation has refined his communication and problem-solving skills further, supporting people to find long-lasting and positive solutions, often in moments of high stress and/or conflict. Overall, these experiences enable him to support leaders, aspiring leaders and individuals who are open to make changes to think creatively and positively to find meaningful outcomes.



### Guy Rands

Guy Rands is a psychotherapist, educator and advocate who helps school leaders navigate the emotional and relational demands of senior leadership. Drawing on over two decades of senior leadership experience in primary and secondary schools, he now works with individuals and organisations to help them build healthier, more connected relationships through the power of listening, reflection and courageous conversation. He has supported schools, social care teams and police officers to deepen their understanding of conflict – not just as something to resolve, but as a signal of what matters. He is known for creating safe and thought-provoking spaces where people can explore difficult dynamics with clarity, curiosity and compassion.



### Helen Webb

Helen Webb is an accredited Executive Coach based in Leicester. She works in schools empowering staff to overcome their individual wellbeing, workload, leadership and career challenges so they can avoid burnout, drive successful school improvement, and get the best out of their team and themselves.

She has over 20 years of experience in education working previously as a science teacher, Lead Practitioner, PGCE & ECT mentor, ECF Lead & ECT Induction Tutor. She is also currently a Lead Mentor for the Leicester & Leicestershire SCITT.

She is a regular contributor to the online secondary education magazine, Sec Ed, where she writes and speaks on themes related to teaching, learning, and coaching.



### Dan Cowling

Dan Cowling is Headteacher at Oak Wood School in Hillingdon, London. He started at the school in April 2020 and led the school from previously Ofsted 3xRequires Improvement to Good in two years, significantly reduced a challenging deficit whilst improving the education experience, opportunities and outcomes for the pupils at the school.

He has a clear vision for education leadership underpinned by a strong moral purpose. With over 20 years' experience in the classroom before becoming Headteacher, he has a fundamental belief that all children can succeed and understands the complex nature of schools and the wider education framework.



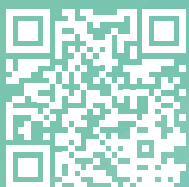
*Outstanding! Straight talking, lots to take away. Very interesting hearing from such highly experienced leaders. Excellent.*

James Allen's Girls' School



*Really well produced and delivered. Knowledgeable speakers with very useful and dynamic content. Good practical takeaway tips.*

Loughborough Grammar School



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