Inspiring Leadership Conference 2019
6 - 7 June, ICC, Birmingham

100 days to go bulletin
Monday 25 February 2019
Jointly hosted by NAHT and Inspiring Leadership Events Ltd, the Inspiring Leadership Conference returns for its sixth year. To mark 100 days to go, we have put together this bulletin to give you a taster of what to expect on the 6 – 7 June at the ICC, Birmingham.

This year we welcome the return of the Teaching Schools Council as a key supporter of the Inspiring Leadership Conference. We are also very pleased to welcome the Chartered College of Teaching as a co-supporter of the Inspiring Leadership Conference 2019.

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“The Inspiring Leadership Conference is renowned for being an excellent opportunity to reflect, meet with your peers and exchange ideas, all highly crucial activities that we so often find ourselves without the time to do.” Read more from Teaching School Council’s Richard Gill here.

“We are happy to be a part of the Inspiring Leadership Conference and to play a role in fostering a culture of learning, where the whole profession can engage with the big ideas in education and shape the future of their own profession.” Read more from Chartered College of Teaching’s Professor Dame Alison Peacock here.
To guarantee and protect those rights education must be inextricably connected to efforts to reduce poverty, inequality, racial segregation and gender equality. If not, schools largely reproduce inequities in power, wealth and status. In this presentation he will analyse the role of communities and schools in addressing and responding to some of these challenges.

Kate Sweetman, founding Principal of SweetmanCragun Group
Kate has over 25 years of experience around the world in the fields of leadership, innovation, and high performance.

In addition to her corporate work, Kate has also devoted her energies to helping to develop young people. She created and ran a leadership development programme for girls in Milton High School (where her girls went to high school). She was on the faculty of iLive2Lead, a program for developing leadership in girls in the developing world. In her keynote at Inspiring Leadership, Kate will discuss leadership in the digital age.

Sarah-Jane Marsh, CEO of Birmingham Women’s and Children’s hospitals

Professor Nick Harding, Chair of the NHS Sandwell and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group

This is a chance to hear from two outstanding leaders at the front line of leading the healthcare system in England. Dealing with the acute pressures of funding and performance on a daily basis they will share their experiences and insights on how to make the most of the money available, develop people, and look after yourself. For both of them, excellence today goes hand-in-hand with securing the future by developing the next generation.

Ben Page, Chief Executive of Ipsos MORI

Ben joined MORI in 1987 after graduating from Oxford University in 1986, and was one of the leaders of its first management buyout in 2000. A frequent writer and speaker on trends, leadership and performance management, he has directed thousands of surveys examining consumer trends and citizen behaviour.

Ben’s keynote session will discuss the future trends in a post Brexit world.
Speaker Insights

We asked a few of the conference speakers 3 questions:

1. What is your #1 leadership lesson learned to date
2. What do you hope the audience will take away from your session?
3. We say that Inspiring Leadership makes you laugh, cry and think deeply about why you do what you do. What will you share with the audience that will make them smile?

Here are a few responses to these questions...

David Weston, Chief Executive, Teacher Development Trust

1. What is your #1 leadership lesson learned to date

Nothing is more important in leadership than effective two-way communication. It’s the most important tool in a leaders’ toolbox, bringing clarity, fostering connection and supporting growth. Every time that I’ve allowed ambiguity in a conversation about delegation, role or performance, it’s come back to bite me!

2. What do you hope the audience will take away from your session?

I will help school leaders identify the ‘low hanging fruit’ when it comes to sustainably improving the quality of teaching. Drawing on the very latest research as well as case studies from some inspirational leaders, delegates will get practical ideas, clarity and confidence in bringing effective change within and across schools.

3. We say that Inspiring Leadership makes you laugh, cry and think deeply about why you do what you do. What will you share with the audience that will make them smile?

I do like to make my audience chuckle! In helping leaders think about change, we’ll explore why children rarely thank us for detentions, why almost all other drivers seem like complete jerks and why colleagues’ eyes sink when we come back from holidays announcing, “I’ve just read this transformational book!”

Ricky Munday, Adventurer, Founder of Inspire Alpine

1. What is your #1 leadership lesson learned to date

I’ve learned that it’s important to build a team that reflects the values and culture that you aspire to. Too often organisations focus only on objectives in terms of ‘what’ they want to achieve, but the ‘how’ is just as important as the what. Build a diverse team that embodies your culture, and allow each person to play to their own strengths within that cultural framework.

2. What do you hope the audience will take away from your session?

I hope that our audience will feel inspired and leave with a renewed sense of purpose to better understand each of their students’ personal journeys, and encourage their students to follow their own dreams. I hope our audience will also personally reflect on their own journeys and seek opportunities to develop greater self-awareness and a deep pool of resilience.

3. We say that Inspiring Leadership makes you laugh, cry and think deeply about why you do what you do. What will you share with the audience that will make them smile?

Our audience will witness my physical transformation from anxious, bespectacled schoolboy to Everest summiter. Every time I see my 13-year-old self I wince - I don’t know how my parents could let me leave the house!
What can geese teach us about leadership?

Have you ever wondered why the Inspiring Leadership conference embraces the V formation of geese in flight within its brand?

We posted a blog on the conference website on 7 January but just in case you missed it, here are some of the lessons of teamwork and leadership to be learnt from geese in flight. When you watch a skein of geese closely, you realise that the geese are all leaders and followers each taking a turn at the head of the V. So what lessons of leadership can we learn from geese?

Lesson 1: Sharing a common goal

As each goose flaps its wings, it creates an uplift, an aerodynamics orientation that reduces air friction for the birds that follow, allowing them to preserve energy for a long-distance flight. When the lead goose becomes tired, it rotates back into the formation and allows another goose to take the leadership position.

The lesson we can learn here is that people who share a common goal can get to where they want to quicker if they work as a team.

Lesson 2: Recognition and encouragement

Geese honk to recognise each other and to encourage each other to keep up.

The lesson we can learn here is to make sure we are offering support to each other and continue to praise one another by giving people the recognition and encouragement they deserve.

Lesson 3: Staying committed to the common goal

The geese migration routes never change, they use the same route each year even if there are new members.

The lesson we can learn here is to stay true to our core values. Colleagues, pupils and other aspects may change but great organisations will always stick to their core values and remember why they do what they do.

Watch this YouTube video of a skein of geese in action
Exhibition Hall

The Inspiring Leadership conference only happens with the support of delegates, sponsors and exhibitors.

Each year we see many of each return for their annual meeting at the ICC Birmingham to refresh existing relationships and make new ones.

The exhibition is a vital part of the Inspiring Leadership experience offering delegates opportunities to discover new suppliers, new ideas and discuss options for introducing new products and services into their schools.

To facilitate these meetings all catering provided at the conference is served in the exhibition hall, seating while provided is minimal to ensure delegates are able to move freely through the space and meet with those organisations that they want to speak to.

You can view our confirmed sponsors and exhibitors to date here.

New for 2019: Photobooth area

It is regularly said that the Inspiring Leadership Conference experience makes you laugh, cry and think deeply about why you do what you do.

In 2018, we noticed some popularity with the Inspiring Leadership Social Frame with a large number of delegates interacting with each other and sharing the photos on social media.

This year to bring a smile to your face, we are introducing the Inspiring Leadership photobooth. Jointly hosted with Tempest photography, the photo booth is an opportunity to have a bit of fun with colleagues, friends and even strangers! The photobooth will be situated within the exhibition hall and photos will be emailed to you for you to do as you wish. Just don’t forget to post the #ilconf19 with any tweets and Facebook posts for us to admire and share.
Wellbeing Hub

Since introducing the wellbeing zone in 2016 each year, we have looked to enhance and improve how we generate increased awareness of wellbeing policies and practices, how we communicate and share good practice and new information and how we help school leaders improve their schools’ approach to the implementation of positive wellbeing strategies and activities.

In 2018 Inspiring Leadership partnered with Education Support Partnership, a long-time supporter of the annual leadership conference, to curate a Wellbeing Hub from which to signpost delegates to specific wellbeing information and providers.

This year we are taking not just a step further forward but also changing tack. Taking a more strategic approach to ensuring wellbeing is seen as an essential rather than optional practice Education Support Partnership will host a masterclass and two workshops at the conference to explore:

‘changing the sector’s definition of staff wellbeing’

‘creating a positive school culture’ and

‘the impact of ‘hyper-accountability’ on teacher wellbeing’.

The masterclass and workshop bookings will open late April.

In 2019, the Inspiring Leadership Conference will feature the return of the highly popular ‘Wall of Wellbeing’ You can visit the Education Support Partnership team at Stand no 58 in the exhibition hall.
Leadership Quotes

Google the above term and you’ll not be short of long lists of quotes from the great and the good. Each year the Inspiring Leadership conference delivers its own list of highly memorable quotes. Here’s a selection from previous years’…

“Sometimes you need to solve 50 little problems to solve one big problem”
- William Hague

“The higher the stakes, the bigger the instinct to blame”
- Matthew Syed

“People have an unerring ability to go straight to the periphery of a problem”
- Peter Housden

“Everyone can be a hero if they choose to do the right thing”
- Steve Munby

“What characterises high performing teams is helpfulness”
- Margaret Heffernan

“Ask yourself, what have I done today to recognise someone else’s leadership?”
- Drew Dudley

“In business we touch people’s wallets, as teachers you touch their soul”
- Humphrey Walters

“Children should go to school with open minds and return home with shiny eyes”
- Iqbal Khan