



ACADEMY AMBASSADORS: BOARD DEVELOPMENT EVENT

BIS Conference Centre, 1 Victoria St, London, SW1H 0ET

Monday 7th September 2015: 9.15am – 12.30pm

9:15–9.30

Registration, tea and coffee

9.30-10.15

Data and performance in education – the basics for newly appointed NEDs (Session A)

An introduction to education performance and data with John Acland-Hood, Department for Education, with a Q&A Panel. Introduced by Kirsty Watt, Head of Academy Ambassadors, this session is designed for newly appointed academy trust non-executives to get a grounding in the basics before the rest of the day's discussion and debate begins.

10.15-11.15

Academy finances and the board role in financial stewardship (Session B)

An introduction to Academy finances with Alyson Gerner, Education Funding Agency, and reflections on the board role leading financial planning from Outwood Grange Academies Trust. Speakers are: Sir Michael Wilkins, Academy Principal and Chief Executive; Mr David Earnshaw, Chair, and Martyn Oliver, Designate Chief Executive. Chaired by Paul Smith, Regional Schools Commissioner for Lancashire and West Yorkshire.

This session starts with some introduction to school funding for non-executives new to education and will move on to look at the board role, financial challenges ahead and the Outwood model that links financial planning with curriculum and staffing. There will be time for discussion and questions and answers to share best-practice between delegates.

10.15-11.15

Data and performance in multi-academy trusts (Session C)

Leading academy trusts share their approaches to driving up educational attainment across multiple schools - and the role for those from outside education in raising standards. Speakers include Sir Barry Day, Chief Executive Greenwood Dale, and Hugh Greenway, Chief Executive, Elliot Foundation.

The session will be based around case studies from Greenwood Dale - a trust of 27 schools based around the East Midlands that drives performance without imposing a standard central curriculum or structure and the Elliott Foundation - a successful multi-academy trust of 18 schools with clusters in the Midlands, East Anglia and London, specialising in the Primary sector. Chaired by Pank Patel, Regional Schools Commissioner for the West Midlands.

10.15-11.15 The CEO-Board relationship (Session D)

A discussion with leading Chairs and Chief Executives on the executive/non-executive relationship dynamic with contributions from a panel including Les Walton OBE, Chair of Northern Education, Shirley Jamieson, Chair of Cambridge Meridian Academies trust and Future Leaders Trust. Chaired by Jenny Bexon-Smith Regional Schools Commissioner for East Midlands and Hull.

Northern Education is a trust of 20 schools based across the north of England and Les Walton has significant experience leading public sector boards and is a champion of good governance. Shirley Jamieson brings a Chief Executive's perspective leading a group of seven schools in Cambridge and Peterborough. Future Leaders Trust will share lessons from first multi-academy trust CEO programme.

11.15-12.15 The board role in financial stewardship (Session E)

(Repeat of session B). An introduction to Academy finances with Alyson Gerner, Education Funding Agency, and reflections on the board role leading financial planning from Outwood Grange Academies Trust. Speakers are: Sir Michael Wilkins, Academy Principal and Chief Executive; Mr David Earnshaw, Chair, and Martyn Oliver, Designate Chief Executive. Chaired by Paul Smith, Regional Schools Commissioner Lancashire and West Yorkshire.

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11.15-12.15 Managing growth: three schools up (Session F)

The board role in deciding to grow and seeing the trust through its first growing stages including speakers Christopher Crozier, Chair of Paradigm Trust, a group of three schools in East London, and Denise Shepherd, Chief Executive, Thinking Schools Trust – a group of nine academies in Medway and Portsmouth. Chaired by Dominic Herrington, Regional Schools Commissioner for South London and the South-East.

This session will look at the board role in beginning sustainable growth - deciding the strategy for growth, driving consistency of ethos, financial oversight and planning for the future.

11.15-12.15 Managing growth: 10 up (Session G)

The board role in steering more ambitious growth and growing beyond start-up into a medium to large organisation. Speakers include Peter Little of Reach2 (over 40 schools in the South East and Staffordshire/Warwickshire) and Liz Lewis, CEO of The Griffin Schools Trust (12 schools in the Midlands and South-East). Chaired by Tim Coulson, Regional Schools Commissioner for North East London and East of England.

This session will discuss the role of the chair and non-executive in leading growth – the financial challenges of growing infrastructure, aligning ethos across large more complex structures and taking the organisation with you in a more ambitious vision.