

S7 Leadership Programme

The S7 Consortium is delighted to announce the third year of its unique programme for the Sixth Form College leaders of the future.

This document sets out the detail of the programme which will start in the Spring and run until the end of the Summer term 2008. It is aimed at curriculum team leaders from within Sixth Form Colleges who currently have some sort of responsibility post that includes a team member or members within its scope.

The six day course has been carefully planned and considered by a team of S7 senior managers and external consultants to focus as tightly as possible on the changing needs and expertise demanded of managers in the middle of Sixth Form College organisations. It is these key posts who often face some of the greatest pressures in juggling the demands of the classroom with delivering wider organisational goals and targets.

The S7 Leadership Programme will all take place away from the pressures and pace of the College environment at a training venue set in extensive wooded acres just outside Haslemere, Surrey. With a mix of delegates from across the South East Sixth Form Colleges all together in one place, it is hoped that there will be plenty of opportunity to make informal connections and networks to discuss and solve issues facing individuals in Colleges.

To this end, the programme will start with a two day residential to allow delegates the chance to get to know each other and the trainers, together with the team of mentors who will be working on the programme. Each delegate will have a mentor from amongst the senior management teams of the S7 Colleges who will meet with them formally twice during the course and who will be on hand to offer phone and email advice during the progress of the central project. The outcomes of this project each delegate will be asked to deliver at the end of the course in July 2008.

Commitment levels to this course will be necessarily high. There will be preparation materials in advance of modules and on-line materials to access for homework as part of the course delivery. All dates for the course will be compulsory – the programme has been designed such that each module will build on its predecessor. In addition, each delegate will have their own mini research project to undertake under the guidance of their mentor.

We hope that this will be something of a unique opportunity: to attend a course that has been designed by skilled and experienced practitioners within the Sixth Form College sector to attend to the needs of managers within it.

Individual Colleges will have responsibility for arriving at the final names and numbers of delegates that they put forward for this course and for meeting the financial costs for each delegate.

S7 Leadership Programme Course Outline 2008

Day One: Friday January 18th

This initial module will set much of the groundwork for the course as a whole: it will ask you to reflect on where you are currently as an individual and as a leader and will ask you to begin to engage with ideas on Leadership. Case study materials will ask you to wrestle with real-life College situations and to understand how your personal style dictates your responses to these. Theory work on the importance of emotional intelligence to establishing an effective leadership style will feed in to the tasks undertaken.

Evening of Friday January 18th

A social dinner and chance to relax with the programme mentors who will be guiding you through your project work as well as an opportunity to get to know the other programme delegates and leaders better.

Day Two: Saturday January 19th

The morning begins with a carousel of activities allowing you workshop time with your programme mentor to establish some ideas for your project as well as getting you thinking independently. The afternoon session will focus on the work you do with your team and how to make the most of that through negotiating and influencing. It will also spend time working on meetings and exploring strategies for keeping meetings on track and ensuring positive outcomes.

Day Three: Monday February 25th

The emphasis for this day's modules will be on managing, with the morning's focus squarely on the successful management of self. The morning will revolve around awareness raising of yourself as a manager and will highlight some practical strategies for balancing roles and setting priorities. The afternoon module will consider the managing of others and, in particular, will tackle the management of difficult people and situations.

Day Four: Tuesday April 22nd

The fourth day will be split into two distinct halves with task and theory input in the morning module on communication strategies and the managing of change within an organisation. The afternoon session will respond to individual learning needs with time set aside for work with project mentors, updating them on project progress and making plans for completion.

Day Five: Thursday June 19th

Day Five allows for some wider perspective activity, in particular on the leadership of learning: exploring the role of the team leader in improving teaching and learning and considering active approaches to quality improvement with your teams. The afternoon session will consider the bigger picture still, allowing time for reflection on what we mean by the educational values of a Sixth Form College and how you might re-shape those in a leadership role.

Day Six: Tuesday July 1st

For the morning session of this final day you will be joined by the Principals and senior staff from the S7 Colleges in time for the showcase of project material that will take place. Presentations from each of the course delegates will form the basis of this session. The final afternoon of the course will return to its original aims and assess these against outcomes and distance travelled. It will weave together progress charted with some of the theory considered along the way. Certificates will be awarded at the end of the day.