



RISE LEADERS RISE SUMMIT WORKSHOPS



MORNING WORKSHOPS

1. **Breaking Barriers – Pathways to Executive Leadership** – David Watson OBE

Navigating the system while staying true to your values

Are you ready to take the next step into executive leadership, but unsure how to navigate the journey without compromising your values?

This practical and thought-provoking workshop explores the pathways to executive roles, including Executive Headteacher, Director and CEO. Participants will gain insights into formal and informal routes to progression, recruitment processes, what selection panels are looking for, and how to position themselves confidently for future opportunities.

The session will also explore the importance of authenticity, integrity and values-led leadership, particularly when navigating organisational cultures and systems that may not reflect your lived experience.

Delegates will leave with greater clarity about their executive ambitions, a stronger understanding of the challenges and opportunities ahead, and practical next steps to support their leadership journey.

Executive leadership is not simply about reaching the top. It is about getting there without losing who you are.

2. **Strategic Influence – Leading Beyond the School Gates** – Bushra Nasir CBE

Navigating public leadership, partnerships and strategic influence

Executive leadership is not simply about leading an organisation. It is about influencing the wider system.

This engaging and practical workshop explores how leaders can extend their influence beyond their immediate institutions to shape decisions, strengthen partnerships and contribute to wider educational change.

Participants will examine what strategic influence means in practice and how to develop a confident, credible public leadership voice. The session will explore effective engagement with governing boards, local communities, national organisations and other key stakeholders, recognising the importance of relationships, communication and professional credibility.

Delegates will also consider how to build influence while remaining authentic and aligned with their personal values and leadership identity.

Through reflection and practical insights, participants will begin developing their own strategic influence strategy, identifying opportunities to strengthen their voice, expand their networks and make a meaningful difference beyond the school gates.

Leadership creates impact. Strategic influence extends its reach.

3. **Twice as Hard, Half as Seen – The Inner Work of Becoming the Leader** – Shiraz Khan FCCT

Unpacking racialised leadership experiences and building unshakeable belief and presence

What happens when you have the capability to lead, but the systems around you make you question whether you belong?

This powerful and reflective workshop explores the internal challenges faced by Global Majority leaders as they navigate ambition, identity and progression into executive leadership.

Participants will examine how racialised experiences, systemic bias and impostorism can influence confidence, self-perception and leadership identity, often creating invisible barriers to progression.

The session will explore what authentic executive presence looks like, challenging the notion that leaders must change who they are to be recognised, respected or heard.

Through guided reflection and practical strategies, delegates will begin developing the self-belief, resilience and presence needed to navigate high-stakes leadership environments with confidence.

You do not need to become someone else to become an executive leader. You need to recognise the power of who you already are.



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AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS

4. Sponsorship & Networks – Finding Your People and Advocates – Dean Kelly

Moving from mentorship to sponsorship and cultivating networks of power and support

Talent and ambition matter, but who is advocating for you when you are not in the room?

This engaging and practical workshop explores the power of professional relationships in accelerating progression towards executive leadership.

Participants will examine the important distinction between mentorship and sponsorship, recognising how mentors provide guidance while sponsors actively champion individuals, create opportunities and open doors to advancement.

The session will encourage delegates to reflect on their existing professional networks, identify missing connections and consider how to build meaningful relationships with influential leaders and decision-makers.

Through practical insights and reflection, participants will begin developing a personal networking and sponsorship strategy aligned with their leadership ambitions and values.

Delegates will leave with greater clarity about who can support their progression and how to cultivate relationships that strengthen their influence, visibility and opportunities.

Your leadership journey is yours, but you do not have to travel it alone.

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5. Visibility & Voice – Telling Your Story, Shaping the Narrative – Sally Pritchett

Personal branding for leadership across media, keynotes, social platforms and executive spaces

Your leadership story matters. But are you making sure the right people hear it?

This engaging and empowering workshop explores how leaders can strengthen their visibility, communicate their value and shape the narrative surrounding their leadership.

Participants will discover the power of authentic storytelling in building credibility, influence and professional recognition. The session will explore how to articulate a compelling leadership narrative that reflects personal values, achievements and aspirations without compromising authenticity.

Delegates will consider practical approaches to amplifying their voice across different platforms, including public speaking, keynote opportunities, traditional media, social media and executive leadership spaces.

Through reflection and practical guidance, participants will begin developing an intentional personal brand that enhances their professional presence and opens doors to new opportunities.

Visibility is not about seeking attention. It is about ensuring your leadership, contribution and potential are recognised.

6. Leading Through a Justice Lens – HarRoop Sandhu FCCT

Embedding anti-racism and equity into strategy, policy and culture at executive level

Executive leadership is not simply about managing systems. It is about having the courage to transform them.

This powerful and thought-provoking workshop explores what it means to lead through a justice lens, placing equity, anti-racism and inclusion at the heart of executive decision-making.

Participants will examine how leaders can move beyond statements of intent to embed meaningful, sustainable change within organisational strategy, policies, practices and culture.

The session will explore practical approaches to challenging systemic inequalities, strengthening accountability and creating environments where individuals and communities can thrive.

Delegates will reflect on their own spheres of influence, considering how they can use their leadership positions to challenge barriers, shape inclusive cultures and drive lasting organisational change.

Participants will leave with greater clarity, practical insights and a renewed commitment to equity-focused leadership.

True executive leadership is not measured only by the authority we hold, but by the justice we advance.