

Academies Conference 2022 - Session Outlines



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Keynote Address

Baroness Barran MBE, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department for Education

Baroness Barran MBE was appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Education on 17 September 2021.

She was previously Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport from 26 July 2019 to 17 September 2021.

Holding firm to what matters

Mick Waters, Former Director of Curriculum, QCA

The last couple of years have been incredibly challenging for everyone connected with schooling. The levels of demand on individuals have been significant and maintaining a healthy and optimistic outlook is vital for both sustaining teams and planning future development. So many have recognised the important role that schools play within their community and, as we move forward, there is a growing awareness of the possibility of meeting the future with a renewed emphasis upon hope, ambition and collaborative partnerships.

This session will reflect on the role of leadership in moving the learning agenda forward at a time of challenge whilst showing due care for all colleagues and ourselves. The session will set the scene for the workshops and be thoughtful, practical and positive and will refer to some of the issues raised in Mick's very recent book (written with Tim Brighouse) called 'About Our Schools: improving on previous best'.

Keynote

Steve Rollett, Deputy CEO, Confederation of School Trusts (CST)

BREAKOUT SESSIONS:

Internal Scrutiny

Gareth Edmunds, Chief Operating & Finance Officer, Northern Education Trust

Compliance with the new requirements of Academies Trust Handbook and development of a more comprehensive assurance and governance framework

Whole Trust Transformation

Rob Tarn, Chief Executive, Northern Education Trust

Case study of trust journey and how North Shore Academy has been recently rated by Ofsted as Outstanding in every category

Try before you buy model in Multi Academy Trusts - does it work?

Jo Heaton OBE, CEO, Northern Lights Learning Trust

Jo will talk about the Associate Membership model that they put in place in their Multi Academy Trust last year, before 'try before you buy' was announced. Jo will share the journey of a school joining the Trust as an Associate Member, the things that made it successful and insights from both the Associate school and Trust perspectives.

Developing Reflective Teachers

Alan Hardie, CEO, Northumberland C of E Academy Trust

This session will focus on how we overhauled our teacher appraisal system to ensure it is focused on improving quality rather than being compliance focused. We've increased the opportunities for teachers to reflect on their practise and provided greater opportunities for coaching and mentoring. It will show how we worked with Beezapps to develop a customisable app to support this and provide a much more coherent and holistic approach to appraisal. We will demonstrate how the app is used to support teacher development in both primary and secondary contexts.

How are Trusts developing their financial operations to accommodate growth?

Will Jordan, Co Founder & CEO, IMP Software

In this session, IMP will outline a range of strategies that have been adopted by MATs to ensure they are well placed to accommodate further growth. IMP will look at the strategies employed to both prepare for growth and to subsequently manage it:

- Central team design and development
- Systems adoption, automation, and development
- Centralisation and the range of approaches to GAG Pooling

Effective Estates Management

Matthew Laverick, Head of Estates and Facilities, Nicholas Postgate Academy Trust

- The development of an estates strategy
- How estates and facilities management data can influence strategic decision making across the wider estate
- How procurement of estates contracts can reduce risk and increase quality

How social value can support MATs and SATs achieve positive outcomes for their schools and community

Darren Knowd, Head of Procurement, Sales & Business Services, Durham County Council

Update from the DfE

Katherine Cowell, Regional Schools Commissioner for the North

COO (Constant opportunities and obstacles) Reflections

Emma Harrison, COO, Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust & Louise Levy, COO, Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust

Multi Academy Trust Inspections

Steve Rollett, Confederation of School Trusts (CST)

Maturing your MAT: A CFO's tips for growing a MAT and surviving

Steve Howell, CFO, Red Kite Learning Trust

CFO reflections on lessons learned from 6 years of growing Red Kite Learning Trust - a top-60 MAT

- * Building a Brand – communicating better; being clearer
- * Developing Foundations – grappling with core systems; people and partnerships
- * Staying Safe – procurement; risk; compliance
- * Moving Forward – effective planning; finding joy