

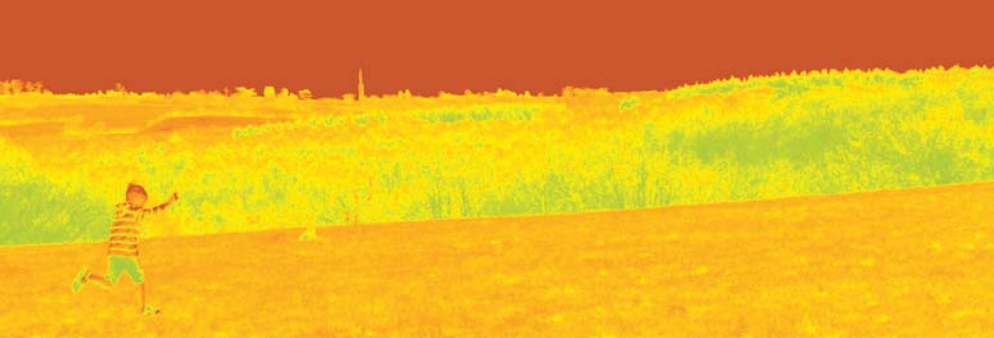


# Leading for the Future

a chance to step back and to think ahead

A fully-funded, pilot residential for school leaders at Commonwork, Kent

19-22 October 2010



Is the standards agenda enough to prepare young people for their part in creating a secure, just and sustainable future, or does education have a greater role? Should we as leaders support the current social and economic status quo, or should we seek alternatives?

**Leading for the Future** offers you the chance to:

- improve your leadership through exploring different ways of thinking, learning and working
- take part in stimulating and enjoyable experiences for personal and professional reflection
- interact with a small group of colleagues and creative facilitators
- have time and space to explore education futures in beautiful and contemplative surroundings
- return energised and inspired to create learning for a truly just, happy and sustainable future.



**GUARANTEED  
POST-IT NOTES AND  
POWERPOINT-FREE ZONE**

**Leading for the Future** is backed by these organisations that believe in the pivotal role of education to secure a just and sustainable future for everyone across the globe, and that school leadership is key to achieving this.

# Leading for the Future 19-22 October 2010

How often are education leaders given the time and space to discuss the aims of education, rather than merely the logistics of implementation?

In an era where the standards agenda has predominated in educational thinking, there has been less consideration given to the wider role education could and should play as we enter an increasingly uncertain future. Should the standards agenda be seen as a problem in itself, or is it perfectly reasonable to prioritise easily measurable outcomes?

Our present society and economy seem to rely on such an approach in order to maintain ever greater consumption. Some think that this approach leads to ever diminishing returns, with fewer happy people and a system that is often unjust and economically and socially unstable.

What are the alternatives and what role, if any, should education play? Should education aim to follow and support the current social and economic status quo or should it create thinking and questioning individuals, staff and students, who are capable of creating an alternative future to which we can all aspire.

These issues have implications for education leaders, whether in local and national government, local authorities, schools or higher

education, as well as other providers in industry and the third sector. There are also questions about how much autonomy these leaders should have, the systems of accountability, and the extent that these leaders could and should affect national strategies. With the recent change of government, these questions are even more pertinent.

The new Department for Education (DfE) says it wishes to give schools more freedom, but with the caveat that a reduced core curriculum delivers the easily measured standards. In reality, will this widen or reduce the scope of leaders to explore new fields and, if necessary, challenge the economic imperatives of our present society?

Leading for the Future aims to give leaders reflection time to explore their role and reaction to these issues. It may also offer more options for leadership given that participants will be encouraged to think out of the box. Participants in this exciting project will be invited on a journey of self discovery and to suspend embedded forms of thinking in order to explore alternatives in perception and behaviour.

Leading for the Future is not about propaganda; instead it is about questioning, exploring and challenging assumptions so that deep thinking can inspire innovative leadership for a just and sustainable future.

## Application

Leading for the Future is a small group event, and so places are limited. If you would like further information or to apply for a place, please contact Jacqueline Leach on 01732 463255 or [jacquelinel@commonwork.org](mailto:jacquelinel@commonwork.org)

Prospective participants will be contacted by telephone for an informal discussion. As this is a fully-funded pilot event, participants will also be asked to commit to a follow-up event, to be held 9-10 December 2010, and to contribute to a period of ongoing evaluation.

## Venue

Commonwork, Bore Place, Chiddingstone, Edenbridge, Kent TN8 7AR [www.commonwork.org](http://www.commonwork.org)