

Workshops and Surgery Sessions

Places on workshop sessions and surgery sessions have been pre-booked. Details of your allocated sessions and times are printed on your delegate badge.

If you have not pre-booked your afternoon sessions, please speak to a member of the Academy Ambassadors team at the registration desk and we will advise which spaces are available.

Workshop Sessions

Workshops and surgery sessions will take place at 13:40 and 14:30, as part of the main conference programme. Each delegate will have the opportunity to attend two sessions.

13:40

Churchill

Understanding education data: the basics for new academy trust non-executives

Scott Walker, Adviser, Academy Ambassadors

Good data is at the heart of good decision-making, but how does a new board member navigate the world of education data and jargon? This short session provides the facts for any new board member on education data, including Key Stage 2, Key Stage 4 forecasts and attainment, GCSEs, Progress 8, Attainment 8.

It will also cover the basics on performance tables, tracking progress of disadvantaged groups and benchmarking to help those brand new to education provide challenge and support to education leaders.

13:40

Gielgud

The governance of risk in multi-academy trusts

Kevin Binley, non-executive director, Peterborough Diocese Education Trust & HEART Academies Trust

Dan Kolinsky QC, Barrister, Landmark Chambers, and non-executive director and Chair, Burnt Mill Academy Trust

How does the board take the risk out of managing risk? This session will go beyond the basics of risk management to look at the breadth of risks that the board is accountable for across education, governance, finance and people - flagging the key risks often overlooked.

The session will cover both the key mechanisms of risk management, including policy, internal audit and control, risk registers and agenda prioritisation, and the broader role of the board setting risk appetite and culture.

14:30

Churchill

Getting started in financial governance: what you should know

Sarah Pittam, Adviser, Academy Ambassadors (Chair)

Victoria FitzGerald, ACMA MBA, non-executive director, Trust in Learning Academies

Peter Baines, non-executive director, The Kemnal Academies Trust

A session on the essentials of financial governance in academy trusts, particularly designed for those new to a

board role in education. This session includes input from highly experienced board directors.

14:30

Gielgud

Financial planning in a primary-school multi-academy trust

Claire Emery, Adviser, Academy Ambassadors (Chair)

Lee Mason-Ellis, CEO, The Pioneer Academy

Sam Golding, Deputy CFO, Pioneer Academy Trust

The Pioneer Academy will set out how the trust plans spending across a group of 10 primary schools. Pioneer uses Integrated Curriculum Financial Planning, a staff deployment analysis tool. This session addresses different elements of the Integrated Curriculum Planning approach and provides real examples of how boards can look at

staffing, budget, teacher hours and priorities in a holistic, strategic manner. The CEO of Pioneer will discuss with delegates how their trust uses resources strategically, including the use of specialist teachers and teaching assistants and what the board role is in decision-making.

Surgery Sessions

Olivier

Workforce: unlocking potential with [Ambition Institute](#)

Tom Glover, Director of System Leadership, Ambition Institute

Unlocking potential: The Ambition Institute will hold a surgery session with trust board leaders to present the latest finding from Ambition/EPI Research on workforce in schools. Teachers make great schools but maximising the use of the workforce across the trust has challenges.

How can the potential of the workforce be unlocked through effective deployment? What is the board's role in unlocking the potential of the full workforce across all schools?

Surgery Sessions *(continued)*

Olivier

Developing the trust, masterclass: growth, change and improvement

Tiffany Beck, Chair, Maritime Academy Trust

Nick Osborne, Chief Executive Officer, Maritime Academy Trust

Tiffany Beck, Chair of Maritime Academy Trust, will lead a roundtable session on developing your trust, particularly looking at 'what's next' for the board beyond immediate performance priorities. For Maritime trust development has included growing the number of schools in the trust, creating a new 'hub' in Kent/Medway, developing a particular approach to learning through its Entrepreneurial

Curriculum, and focusing on the development of cultural behaviours for organisational sustainability. Tiffany and Maritime's CEO, Nick Osborne, will lead an open and practical discussion about the role of the board, working closely with the CEO to develop the trust, balancing ambition with good governance and capacity-growth.

Board Evaluation

Olivier

Leora Cruddas, Chief Executive, Confederation of School Trusts

The Confederation of School Trusts (CST) is the national organisation and sector body for school trusts, advocating for, connecting and supporting executive and governance leaders. This session will create a space to reflect on board evaluation. The current approach to board evaluation focuses on individual skills and competencies. The session will explore a different approach based on the competence of the board as a corporate entity.

CST has developed an improvement capacity framework for trust governance; working with the RSC offices in the South West and Lancashire and West Yorkshire to align the framework with the RSC school improvement framework. This surgery aims to introduce you to the framework, focused on the effectiveness of the board as a corporate entity. Copies of the framework will be available.

Driving social change: what does it take to deliver outstanding careers provision in your trust?

Olivier

Nicola Hall, Director of Education, Careers and Enterprise Company

Lesley Thain, Head of Education, Careers and Enterprise Company

The requirements of the government's Careers Strategy has established a new set of world class standards to be implemented in schools and colleges. In this session, delegates are invited to benchmark how well their trust is able to secure the best future for pupils, against other trusts and against the national average performance, using CEC's Compass careers benchmarking tool. Board leaders will gain a high-level overview of their

trust's position in terms of careers provision and discuss opportunities for improvement, to increase social mobility and ensure the best life chances for pupils.

The Careers and Enterprise Company's mission is to prepare and inspire young people for the fast-changing world of work. The organisation links schools and colleges to employers to help them deliver world class careers support for all young people.

Burton

MAT impact masterclass: creating, evaluating and reporting MAT impact, with Nexus Multi Academy Trust

Andy Child MBE, National Leader of Governance, member, East Midlands and Humber Head Teacher Board, Chair, Nexus Multi Academy Trust

Andy Child, Chair of Nexus Multi Academy Trust, will discuss how the board of this small but growing trust monitors the trust's delivery of vision and values and the impact on children, across each of its schools. This

session will comprise discussion on how a board can use effective oversight and strategic focus to create lasting impact, as well as evaluate and report it - including an introduction to Nexus MAT's self-assessment tool.

Olivier

Establishing a board level technology strategy that complements sustainable growth, facilitates effective collaboration and better access to data

James Browning, Head of Digital Platforms, RM Education and non-executive director, Abingdon Learning Trust
Jesse Johnson, Head of School Trusts, RM Education

RM Education invites board leaders to explore the essential technology 'building blocks' involved in successfully running a trust.

As a trusted partner for more than 8,000 schools across the UK, RM is a leading supplier of technology and resources to the education sector. In this session,

delegates will discuss how the strategic deployment of technology, combined with the right support and expertise, is the essential ingredient to enable collaboration, support growth and inform good decision making at all levels across the trust.

Burton / Redgrave

How to set up a free school, with New Schools Network

Sam Fitzpatrick, Head of Strategy and Planning, New Schools Network

Education in England still isn't fair. Great schools break the cycle of low aspiration and achievement. The first ten years of the free schools programme has empowered parents, revitalised teachers and radically transformed opportunity for young people in neglected communities.

New Schools Network (NSN) is an independent charity that finds talented people and trusts and supports them

in establishing brand new schools, with a particular focus on areas of high deprivation and low educational performance. NSN provides a range of services to free schools at every stage of their development, many of which are free to access. In this session, NSN's Head of Strategy and Planning, Sam Fitzpatrick, is available to answer any queries you might have about free schools and the free schools process.

Surgery Sessions *(continued)*

Burton / Redgrave

10 steps to effectively manage your trust estates

Terry Stocks, UK Head of Public Sector, Faithful+Gould

Marcus Lyon, Director, Faithful+Gould

The management of estates often takes a back seat in terms of board priorities, however, poorly managed school estates can be a huge detriment to the trust. Acknowledging this, the Department for Education (DfE) has published a number of documents to raise awareness of the importance of estate management and the legal responsibilities that fall on the board. The DfE states that “Boards need to be confident that the school premises are safe and suitable. Good management of the estate reduces the risks associated with buildings. It helps to prevent the need for significant capital expenditure and disruption which can follow building failure.”

The DfE has published a 10 point checklist for Boards, to support effective stewardship of the schools estate. This roundtable discussion, chaired by Faithful+Gould, will review the DfE checklist and provide an opportunity for board leaders to share what is happening in their trust, to become more aware of how to discharge their duties and how they might be able to attract additional funding to support any identified works.

Olivier

Getting local governance right with **National Governance Association**

Sam Henson, Director of Policy and Information, National Governance Association

In a multi-academy trust, the board of non-executive directors is legally accountable for the decisions made in all its academies. However, this does not mean the board is required to make them all itself; it can delegate decisions to the executive and to the non-executive – those volunteering to govern schools. Governing at academy level within a MAT, often known as local governance, can take many forms. Non-executive directors decide what to delegate to their academy committees, something many academy committees have failed to understand, particularly at the point of transition.

Based on NGA's extensive work with MATs, it is apparent that getting local governance right poses a unique challenge, and many are struggling to make it work well for everyone concerned. This session will explore the issues surrounding local governance in MATs, addressing whether your governance structure is fit for purpose, and key lessons on delegation and communication to those governing locally.