



SCHOOL LEADERS SCOTLAND

Day Conference for Depute Headteachers

Thursday, 1st May, 2025

Venue – Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, Queensferry Crossing

Programme:

- 9.15 - 9.30am **Registration and coffee**
- 9.30 - 9.45am **Welcome to Conference**
Graham Hutton - General Secretary
- 9.45 - 10.15am **Keynote Speech:**
My Leadership Journey (and the advice I wish I had given to my younger self!)
Colin Bruce – Chief Education Officer, Clackmannanshire Council
- 10.15 - 11.15am **Sharing Practice Session**
- 11.15 - 11.40am **Coffee and Networking**
- 11.40 – 1.00pm **Approaches to Self-evaluation and Improvement Planning**
Ali Preston – DHT King’s Park Secondary School, Glasgow
Derek Paterson – Depute Rector, Larbert High School
- 1.00 - 1.30pm **Lunch and Networking**
- 1.30 – 1.45pm **Reflections**
David Barnett - National Officer
- 1.45 – 4.15pm **Mastering the Difficult Conversation**
Jean Crawford – Professional Leadership Coach and Facilitator, BTS Spark

In this workshop session we will explore those conversations that feel particularly daunting and difficult - whether these are discussing performance issues with a member of staff, debating a difference of opinion with a firm-minded colleague, or needing to respond to a demanding parent - and how you can approach these in ways that enable genuine two-way dialogue and strengthen the relationship.

This will be an interactive session that leaves you with some concrete strategies you can take away and put into practice.

The workshop will cover:

- How to build and maintain trust and safety in conversations
- What holds you back from engaging in these 'difficult' conversations
- What to consider when building a culture of effective feedback
- How to become more skilful in navigating conflict by flexing your approach

In advance of the workshop, please complete the two short exercises attached. This will help us get the most out of the workshop session.

3.00 - 3.15pm

Coffee and Networking

4.15 – 4.30pm

Closing Remarks

Graham Hutton - General Secretary

4.30 – 5.15pm

Optional session:

Applying for Headteacher post – top tips!

Graham Hutton - General Secretary

Allyson Dobson – Professional Learning Coordinator