



S7 Leadership Programme

The S7 Consortium is delighted to announce the nineteenth year of its unique programme for the Sixth Form College leaders of the future.

This document sets out the provisional detail of the programme which will start in the Spring Term and run until the end of the Summer Term 2025. It is aimed at curriculum and pastoral team leaders within Sixth Form Colleges who currently have line management responsibility for a team.

The five-day course has been carefully planned and considered by a team of S7 senior managers to focus as tightly as possible on the changing needs and expertise demanded of managers in the middle of Sixth Form College organisations. It is holders of these key posts who often face some of the greatest pressures in juggling the demands of the classroom with delivering wider organisational goals and targets.

The S7 Leadership Programme will take place away from the pressures and pace of the college environment at a training venue near Woking. With a mix of delegates from across the Southeast Sixth Form Colleges all together in one place, it is hoped that there will be plenty of opportunities to make informal connections and networks to discuss and solve issues facing individuals in Colleges.

To this end, the programme will start with a two-day residential to allow delegates the chance to get to know each other and the trainers, together with the team of mentors who will be working on the programme. Each delegate will have a mentor from amongst the senior management teams of the S7 Colleges, who will meet with them formally four times during the course and who will be on hand to offer email advice during the progress of the central project. Each delegate will be asked to deliver a short presentation on the outcomes of this project at the end of the course in June 2025.

Commitment levels to this course will necessarily be high. There will be preparation materials in advance of modules and on-line materials to access for homework as part of the course delivery. All dates for the course will be compulsory – the programme has been designed in such a way that each module will build on its predecessor. In addition, each delegate will have their own mini project to undertake under the guidance of their mentor. This will be part of their everyday activities and should not be too much of an additional workload.

We hope that this will be something of a unique opportunity: to attend a course that has been designed by skilled and experienced practitioners within the Sixth Form College sector to attend to the needs of managers within it. Individual Colleges will have responsibility for arriving at the final names and numbers of delegates that they put forward for this course and for meeting the financial costs for each delegate.





S7 Leadership Programme Course Outline 2025

Day One (6th February 2025): High-Level Strategic Thinking

This initial module will set much of the groundwork for the course as a whole: it will ask you to reflect on where you are currently as an individual and as a leader and will ask you to begin to engage with ideas on Leadership. You will have the opportunity to discuss and understand the process for developing a vision and also to engage with real-life strategies for managing the day-to-day roles of leadership. This will include the management of your time and getting the most out of your day and your team. You will do a presentation on your area and at the end of this first day you will meet your programme mentor for the first time and have an opportunity to discuss your current situation and development goals.

Day One: Evening

A social dinner and chance to relax with the S7 Director, leaders of the course and the programme mentors who will be guiding you through your project work as well as an opportunity to get to know the other programme delegates and leaders better.

Day Two (7th February 2025): Teams and Projects

The morning begins with an activity, which also allows you workshop time with your programme mentor to establish some ideas for your project, as well as getting you thinking independently. The morning session will also focus on the work and dynamics of teams and how to get the most from them. The afternoon will involve work on managing difficult people and conversations.

Day Three (1st April 2025): Quality

This day will focus on 4 areas: Delineation of management roles within a college, leading quality systems, the use of AI as a middle manager and sharing ideas on how to get the most of meetings with your teams.

Day Four (30th April 2025): Applying what you have learnt so far

The morning will be spent exploring the application of your leadership learning so far and the afternoon will be some time to work on your projects with other delegates as well as a further meeting with your mentor.

Between days Four and Five

You will have your final meeting with your mentor in your own college.

Day Five (17th June 2025): Leadership in Context

This final day provides a wider perspective of Sixth Form Colleges. You will also have the opportunity to ask any questions you wish of a panel of our Sixth Form College Principals. On this day you will also be joined by senior staff from the S7 Colleges in time for the showcase of your projects that will take place. Presentations from each of the course delegates will form the basis of this session.

Certificates to show that you have completed the course will be awarded at the end of the day. Whilst S7 courses are not officially accredited by an awarding body, they are well known and respected within the education sector.

