

# **School Testimonials for Developing Potential and Successful Lives**

## **Whole School Wellbeing**

*Lots of useful ideas that we can try out and I recommend that other schools should get involved with this.*

**Heather Headley, Deputy Head, The Hayling College**

*Engaging style and good pace with clear and useful resources. A highly interactive and engaging day with practical ideas to take back to school to support building resilience and the development of a growth mindset.*

**Helen Blachford, Curriculum Lead PSCHE, Priory School, Southsea**

*Very useful content well backed up by evidence. A stimulating and engaging day, which will have a very positive influence on our staff. Some interesting ideas shared from fields beyond education.*

**Steve Williams, Deputy Head, Gwernyfed High School, Brecon, Powys**

*The passion in delivery was convincing – inspirational.*

**Andrew Rose, Director of Sport and Wellbeing, Park Community School, Havant**

*The presenter was knowledgeable and research linked to practice was important. Go ready to learn a lot, and to personalise to make a difference in your school.*

**Tania Harding, Assistant Head, Park Community School, Havant**

*Well worth attending! (Note – Will explore further the idea of pupil self-coaching, read the book and sign up to the weekly e-mail)*

**Ian Gates, Headteacher, Cowplain Community School, Waterlooville**

*I found the planning aspect very useful and prioritising key initiatives. Good basic grounding in coaching and concept of growth mindset. It provided time to reflect and discuss with colleagues.*

**Jackie Lowe, Warblington School**

*The references to research were great as they gave credibility. If you are hoping to make a change at whole school level, you need to send a senior leader, who will be able to implement change.*

**Claire Martinelli, Assistant Head, Cams Hill School, Fareham**

*On a busy day, in a busy week, I'm pleased I made the time to attend. I liked the balance of thoughtful reflection and fast paced information.*

**Maria Ackland, Headteacher, Horndeen CE Junior School**

### **Building Resilience in Staff**

*I wanted to say a few words about the training you delivered almost two weeks ago now.*

*The staff really engaged and enjoyed your session. They felt really valued that the spotlight was on them and their resilience and well-being. They understood the link between how they feel and react to how that transmits itself to the students and then into their teaching. They really liked the ideas for practical strategies and how these simple steps can make quite a sea change in staff wellbeing. They also appreciated that the SLT has taken on board some of those suggestions and implemented some whole school changes – Scared some staff (no work emails after 6.00pm has challenged some)!!*

*Staff understood that this cannot be a “fire and forget” missile but some things need to be inculcated into the culture of the school. Staff particularly appreciated the opportunity to share experiences and share their forward planning of how to keep this on the top of their agenda. It certainly helped to create a real sense of staff collegiality and a sense of our cohesive purpose to help engender all those competencies in both ourselves and our students.*

*A great way to start the term.*

**Faith Jarrett, Headteacher, The Kings School, Ottery St Mary, Devon**

*I really enjoyed the course. Very interesting speaker, very knowledgeable. Of massive use in my everyday life at home and work.*

*I am going to adopt some of the practices to make me better at my job as a pastoral manager.*

*From my employer I would like them to have attended the course so they can implement changes to support staff.*

**Amanda Noone, Hartsdown Academy, Margate, Kent**

*Mark was great at making you feel comfortable and putting the training into context. It was most useful to begin to understand the aim of building resilience and also the advice on how to transfer these strategies into the classroom.*

*I will feedback to colleagues and also implement a slot of time in the classroom for children to regularly share 3 positive things. Further training would be great.*

**L Smethers, Garlinge Primary and Nursery School, Margate**

*Superbly delivered, and found it very entertaining. Opened my eyes to some things.*

**Rob Watts, Hartsdown Academy, Margate**

*Useful to think about the things we can and can't control and how to get young people engaged with this. Engaging. Liked the 7Ps – good to remember.*

**Grace Dennis, Kent County Council**

*Great structure, inspiring, backed by a range of research applied to real situations.*

**Alex Holmes, Deputy Head, Royal Harbour Academy, Ramsgate**

*Positive content for students; tasks including 'My Future Story', visualisation, etc. And to give myself more time to do what I want.*

**Jo Knaves, Hartsdown Academy, Margate**

*A very interesting insight to resilience building and focusing on what is important. Very entertaining – I didn't yawn once – unheard of for a whole day training session.*

**Tim Coppin, Hartsdown Academy, Margate**

*Well judged and paced. I will apply the ideas from today to my endeavours at non-smoking! Apply a positive mindset.*

**Jon Fenton, Hartsdwon Academy, Margate**

*Very Professional. I would highly recommend Les. Very easy to talk to, and easy speaker to listen to – not patronising at all. In fact we have booked him again.*

*Excellent content and brilliant delivery, Best thing we have done as a staff together...EVER.*

**J Simpson, Deputy Head Teacher, Blackburn St Thomas' Church of England Primary School**

## **Building Resilience for Kent County Council Home Support Tutors**

*Made me consider the importance of coaching rather than teaching or talking at people. A lot that can be adapted for the cohort of students we have.*

**Alison Keysell, Education Programme Co-ordinator, Kent County Council**

*Coaching – not pushing/telling, the circle of control versus circle of influence and the flow model were very useful. I am going to discuss lessons with students more, discuss feelings and self-awareness and let them know it's okay to be anxious about new things.*

**Vivienne Webb, Tutor, Kent County Council**

*I liked the strategy for coaching, exploring motivation and self-awareness. I will spend more time trying to bring the aims and needs of the student in line with my own aims and give more responsibility for change to the student.*

**Melanie Cook, Tutor, Kent County Council**

*The discussions on strategies, keeping things positive and sharing ideas, were especially valuable. It was all relevant. I am going to be an even more positive role model for my students.*

**Louise Cork, Tutor, Kent County Council**

*I liked all the graphics – very helpful to visualise. Great forum for discussion and in helping pupils to link emotions to how it affects their work.*

**Livvy Watts, Tutor, Kent County Council**

*Open discussions and sharing good practice was very helpful, as was a review of how the brain works and managing emotions. A lot of ideas to try out with different pupils.*

**Barbara Pravey, Tutor, Kent County Council**

*All aspects of the course were applicable and useful. I can adapt to use with different age groups and individuals.*

**Tutor, Kent County Council**

*I felt I could take something out of all the aspects that were covered, adapting them to different students. I will remember to pay more attention to discovering the student's agenda.*

**Dilys Linsell, Tutor, Kent County Council**

## **Coaching**

*In response to our recent OFSTED report, our rationale for developing a coaching culture in school is to strengthen our school leadership at all levels from SLT to Governors to TA's in in seeking our ambition of moving towards outstanding.*

*Working with Les over a one year period has seen our school develop an inclusive approach to raising standards. Individuals and teams have been inspired to change behaviours, take greater responsibility for their contribution to school life and provide enhanced learning opportunities for pupils and staff. Inter personal relationships have grown, and a mutual respect around clear roles and responsibilities enables staff to work confidently and cooperatively in projects to drive up standards across the school.*

**Karen McBride, Headteacher, Croxteth Community Primary School**

*Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity of attending the Advanced Coaching course, I thought it was a really good course and got a lot out of it. I am sure that I will be able to apply these techniques in many ways, to staff and students.*

*Thank you once again.*

**Ann Stacey, Park House School, Newbury**

*Every school leader should have a coach, as an essential part of personal and whole school development. Despite being graded as "Outstanding" by Ofsted in 2007, being a National support school and Teaching School, after just half an hour with Les he had challenged our thinking and moved our aspirations and goals forward light years. We examined our own core values and analyzed the effectiveness of our team dynamics with exceptional results. Les is a highly skilled coached, emotionally intelligent and gifted at reading others. We are very excited at the prospect of working with Les and Developing potential and hope this will be the catalyst to move our organization to the next level.*

*A very thought provoking day that has allowed me the opportunity to reflect upon my own practices and that of my colleagues/school. I am taking away some great ideas that will undoubtedly improve the performance of my school, its staff and students. Overall a great day. Thank you.*

**Gary Hill, Phoenix Collegiate.**

*I have worked with Developing Potential for the last eighteen months and they have more than surpassed my expectations. As a new academy our vision is to ensure that leadership and coaching are at the heart of our ethos.*

*After an initial review we agreed a long term plan and so far we have had Senior Leadership Team training, one to one coaching, the development of learning coaches, support at governors meetings, PE change teams and much more.*

*The feedback from staff, students and governors has been outstanding.*

*I am very excited in continuing our journey in partnership with Developing Potential and would recommend that you have a conversation with them if your goal is delivering and sustaining outstanding performance”.*

**Derek Peuple, Headteacher, Park House School, Berkshire**

*Developing Potential delivered a very professional workshop, which balanced passion for their subject with good humour and practical ideas. They clearly explained how coaching fits into school life and how it supports school performance. The delegates went away understanding that coaching is not touchy feely but a very practical way of solving issues and achieving objectives.*

**Sue Edwards, Learning & Development Co-ordinator, Pudsey Group of Schools.**

*We booked Developing Potential on the back of attending a leadership workshop, which they ran. We were impressed by their professionalism and an ability to empathise with head teacher’s needs and concerns. They have the ability to present really well and inject humour into the subject.*

*We see coaching as playing a substantial role in delivering improved performance and were delighted with the results. I would recommend this workshop for all senior management.*

**Carry Lynnot, Headteacher, Ben Rhydding School**

### **School Wide Coaching Culture**

*Fantastic day. After a particularly heavy few months it has given me renewed enthusiasm and motivation to continue doing my job and doing it with passion, determination and resilience.*

**Fiona Zino, Mesnea Primary School**

*This course had the right balance of practical advice and active involvement. There is much I will be taking back into school.*

**Nigel Seaborn, Senior Deputy Head, Siddal Moor Sports Company**

*Really opened my eyes (and mind) to coaching rather than just managing. Gave me lots of ideas to take back to school.*

**Joan Bennett, Brook Acre CP School**

*An excellent introduction to establishing a coaching culture in school. I'm eager to try the GROW model and badger students with "what else" questions!*

**Martin Kettlewell, Director of Music/Director of Co-curriculum, Pocklington School**

*The opportunity to attend the workshop with colleagues was particularly valuable as it gave us opportunities to discuss implementation in our own school based on a shared understanding of a coaching culture.*

**Ian Colling, Headteacher, Magdalen College**

*A really useful day that opened up my eyes to the benefits of coaching and the ways I could practically do something on my return to school.*

**Melissa Brennan, Royal Hospital School, Ipswich**

*This day allowed me to focus on developing a workable plan to implement in my school. I was coached through this process, and this has enthused and motivated me towards achieving practical outcomes.*

**Rachel Gibb, Deputy Head, Wallington High School for Girls**

*I felt I developed a deep understanding of coaching, I knew it was the way forward and now I understand why.*

**Alan Wells, Director Key Stage 3, Ormiston Rivers Academy**

*The best course I have been on in my whole career. This coaching course was inspirational and developed my thinking. It provided me with strategies to use in life and not just with my colleagues. Thank you.*

**Victoria Scoular, Deputy Headteacher, Mesne Lea CP School**

*An excellent course that has enabled me to develop my thinking. I am now much more confident in rolling out a coaching programme to staff in our school.*

**Jane Hines, Saints Peter and Paul School, Halton**

*Very interesting and engaging course with lots of practical tips to take back to school.*

**Adele Gibson, Assistant Headteacher, Barbara Priestman Academy**

*I had the chance to put into practice the key points from each session and the time to think and write plans and next steps while the theory was still fresh in my mind.*

**Zoe Buxton, Deputy Head, Grange Primary School**

*The coaches showed wisdom and insight, making me reflect too! The humour and relaxed environment created by the coaches enabled the open and honest conversations.*

**Rachel Boswell, Deputy Head, Grange Primary School**

*This course helped to deepen my thinking in terms of planning and implementing coaching.*

**J McIlwaine, Grange School**

*It brought a greater realisation of how the success of the school is down to the staff - no one else!*

**Adrian Mawson, Assistant Head, Ridgewood School, Plymouth**

*It covered the full range of coaching – whether you have never tried it or you are ready to implement it across the whole school, you will leave well informed and challenged!*

**Tom Ivey, Faculty Leader for Humanities, Abbeywood Community School, Bristol**

*I found the day really useful to revisit, improve and extend my coaching knowledge. The day has helped me to develop a plan and effective model/actions to take back into my school to support and improve the quality of leadership and dissemination of leadership throughout the school – through appraisal and supervision meetings, with the aim of improving the climate and ethos.*

**Felicity Lee, Deputy Head, Children's Support Service, Essex**

*An insightful experience that helps you help others find the hard answers. I learnt the impact 'telling' can have on action/output/effectiveness. I will now praise on a daily basis and take time to ask and listen.*

**Nicky Hood, Director of Teaching and Learning, Mildenhall College Academy**

*An excellent introduction to coaching and an inspirational day.*

**Anne Finnegan, Moulsham High School**

*A really interesting, supportive and outstanding day with a good mixture of theory and time to apply the principles to real issues in school.*

**Melissa Eades, Headteacher, Sunneymede Infant School**

*A very thought provoking day. A good balance between information giving and shared discussion. Excellent resources provided.*

Chris Hayes, Education Consultant and former Headteacher, Essex

*An excellently prepared, planned and delivered day. Gave very positive strategies of how to implement a coaching culture in a school setting. A very thought provoking and enjoyable day. Thank you.*

**Jane Morrish, Deputy Head, Ormiston Rivers Academy, Essex**

Excellent workshop on implementing and further embedding a coaching culture in school for positive impact on staff performance. Very well organised course and well delivered. Inspirational.

**Anon**

*Good introduction to coaching. Small groups made discussion more effective. Individual needs of attendees considered and all participants views were welcomed – very good coaching modelling.*

**Anon**

## **Energy Workshops**

*“Being Head of a Teaching School that adopts a coaching philosophy, and having attended many national collage courses, I have a good understanding of coaching methodology. However the Developing Potential team and their programme “Energize for Exceptional Results” hugely impressed me.*

*It was not just the opportunity to work with a range of professionals from diverse industries, it was the challenge provided and the new learning I took away.*

*Since the course I have considered my own value and how I was living out of line. I have run VEGA analysis with all of my staff teams, and I have adapted and changed the way staff meetings run to ensure that there is authentic communication and time is always productively used. This course works on a personal level but also challenges leadership behaviours and is a must for ALL school staff not just those in senior positions. Thank you Developing potential.”*

**Huw Duggan, Sanctuary Teaching School**

## **Behaviour Management, Behaviour Adaptation and DISC Profiling**

*I would wholeheartedly recommend DISC training to any Headteacher who is looking to understand how they can modify and change some of their leadership behavioural traits in order to improve their school.*

*I will certainly be introducing this with the leadership team and can see the benefits of using it with future appointments to enable us to continue to build a truly balanced team.*

**Lynne Burnley, Head teacher, St. Hughs CE Primary Oldham**

*DISC profiling is a refreshing change for CPD. A really thought provoking and enjoyable course which challenges on many levels.*

*This course brought a totally different perspective to how we can empower staff, children and their families. I am already putting in to practise what I learned about my behaviours into my daily life at school. This will have a positive impact on school improvement at our school.”*

**Mrs Joanne Summerfield, Deputy Headteacher, Harehills Primary School**

## **Successful Lives Testimonials**

*I've been thinking about our Successful Lives resources, and I just wanted to let you know how delighted I am with them.*

*They came to my attention through one of your emails, so I sent off for them more in hope than expectation if I'm honest. I was hoping that they would be useful for some of the small-group withdrawal programmes that we run here, and perhaps I'd even get some assemblies out of them too. How wrong could I have been?! I was amazed at not only the sheer quantity of material in the packs, but also at its quality. The materials cover a lot of the "soft skills" that are so essential for students and often so badly-covered by schools. How many times do we as teachers set a task like "prepare a presentation on xyz" and then despair at what our students produce? In my own case, it's more often than I care to admit, but I've never been really sure about how to teach those skills. However, the Presenting For Success unit is a well-structured scheme for doing exactly that.*

*We've been so impressed with the materials that we are using units as part of our Cross Curricular work with Year 6 and 7 across the school, particularly around things like goal-setting and team-working that we know are so vital, but so hard to teach. Your materials have given us a structure and extremely high-quality resources such as video links. Our students are Year 6,7, and 8, so there is almost too much material here - I can imagine that it would be very beneficial for students right up to the end of Key Stage 4. It's hard to measure the outcomes for a course like this one, precisely because they are the "soft skills" , but my staff and I are starting to see the impact after just half a term of use - students are presenting more confidently, working together more effectively in teams and diagnosing their own difficulties and trying strategies to sort these out. All in all, we're impressed and delighted.*

*Thank you so much to you and your team*

**Linda McQuone, Blackminster School, Deputy Head, Worcester**

*"The teaching is going really well. In fact I spoke to a teacher this morning who has been particularly difficult to engage in delivering the PSHE/Citizenship programme and he was raving about the Successful Lives resources and asked if he could do more of this!*

*I also had an email from another tutor yesterday who said the following:*

*'I just wanted to say how much my tutor group enjoyed the lesson on visualising success this morning. It really calmed and focused them. They seemed to get a lot out of it, and from my point of view, it set me up really nicely for the day as I used some of the techniques in it to encourage a really difficult year 9 music class. I plan to use them a bit more throughout the week and create my own sets of prompts for the students to visualise.'*

*I have been really pleased with the response from tutors who would not normally engage or certainly wouldn't take the time to give me feedback either.*

**Helen Blachford, Curriculum Leader PSCHE, Priory School, South Sea**

*Successful Lives has enabled our students to grow in confidence and develop the essential skills required for learning and life. They enjoy the collaborative learning style and have transferred this knowledge into all aspects of their school life.*

*Students come into the lessons enthused, motivated and the energy in the classroom is fantastic...a real buzz. The programme has made a real difference.*

**Alan Wells, Director of Key stage 3, Ormiston Rivers Academy**

*Because I really needed a curriculum to build resilience I took a whole weekend to look at every single lesson - it is a very well devised curriculum, with excellent lessons. They are ready to teach without having to spend time to modify them and we can dip in to those that meet our specific needs. We have set ourselves some challenging targets to improve behaviour, resilience, attendance and results and these lessons will play a big part in our success.*

**Alex Holmes, Deputy Head, Hartsdown Academy, Margate, Kent**

*As a school we have seen an incredible change in many of our students and we have made exceptional progress. From a school in special measures four years ago to our "good" grading with many outstanding features in our most recent Ofsted. While this was down to more than just the Successful Lives Programme, I'm clear that Successful Lives played a key part in raising student's aspirations and their desire to succeed.*

**Laura O'Shaughnessy, BAP Partnership Development Manager, Essex**

*Successful Lives is a splendid programme, which is well conceived, practical and flexible. It seems to me that the programme is in tune with our general values. It provides strategies for encouraging aspiration whilst also providing teachers with useful material to help pupils develop their confidence and motivation.*

**Mr M A Skelly, Headmaster, Westcliff High School for Boys, An Academy Grammar School**

*I have 3 lessons a week called Study Skills, where I tend to use your lessons. I have frequently gone into sections and then modified as today with LESSON 6.1*

*We looked at the video supplied and then I added Alison Lapper and Helen Keller to highlight their resilience against true adversity.*

*What I like about the site is the idea's it provokes and some of the video links are good talking points. As a resource at my fingertips it's been wonderfully useful and I'm so pleased I can apply it.*

**Sharon Buchanan, Head of Sixth Form, Hartsdown Academy, Margate**

*This is a programme that will capture the imagination of students and enable them to develop an optimistic mind-set and apply practical skills like coaching, leadership, teamwork and much more. I would recommend that you spend a few minutes reviewing this exciting new programme.*

**Sir Tim Brighouse**

### **Leadership for Outstanding Performance**

*"I think you can say that the day was value for money and time, with bells on!"*

**Ian Colling, Headteacher Magdalen College School**

I attended the Leadership for outstanding performance course on the 5<sup>th</sup> March. I just wanted to say that the whole day was superb and it certainly made me address some things!

**Vanessa Lewis, Fullhurst Community College, Leicester**

*How can a hard working leader help a team make a step change increase in performance? Attend leading for outstanding performance – it will sharpen your vision, refocus and align your energies and offer proven practical and engaging tools that can be used, through out your school, from day one.*

**Alistair Armstrong**

### **Management Training for ASCL**

*Thank you for the session today. I specifically enjoyed the session on generating high quality feedback. In my own practice, I am very influenced by the art of powerful questions.*

**Leora Cruddas, Director of Policy, ASCL**