

Cooperative Learning means Business: Co-Creative Workshops for Education Networks

Making every body count

MATs and clusters desiring the many benefits of collaboration face a number of challenges as each stakeholder will either have a positive or negative impact throughout the network.

Examples abound: Poor communication means individual schools are sometimes unaware that their problems have been effectively solved elsewhere; procurements may be perceived as unsuitable by the networked schools due to inadequate consultation processes; for all good intentions, even schools with the motive and capacity to contribute are at times frustrated by ineffective sharing procedures. And behind these issues reside a confounding array of psychological factors.

Werdelin Education's new series of bespoke workshops lets all delegates explore, understand and develop their roles to collaboratively take on specific challenges faced by your organisation: Whether you wish to launch a new initiative across your MAT, unite hearts and minds, welcome a school to your organisation, consult on procurements or uncover the full potential of all your stakeholders, *Werdelin Education* helps you reach your goal.

Regardless of your desired outcome, all your delegates will leave our workshops with a sense of belonging and an increased care and respect for their colleagues.

“It is about harnessing the brainpower and knowledge of the people around you in order to create highly motivated and engaged teams.”

- Steffan Surdek, Consulting Principal, Pyxis Technologies: *Why Leaders Need To Get More Co-Creative*, **Forbes** Coaches Council, 2016.

Outcomes

Though delegates always bond, a workshop by *Werdelin Education* is not equivalent to a traditional team-building day. Rather, every session is tailored to meet specific needs or address specific challenges faced by your organisation. Because we help people themselves generate solutions to their own problems, there is no limit to the objectives our workshops may accommodate.

Do you know something's needed, but not quite sure what it is? When you hire us, we will help you define your desired outcomes and together we establish the concrete forms these should take. The key is that your investment will demonstrably help your organisation achieve its goal, whether you want staff buy-in for your vision, enhanced collaboration, or increased insight into the hidden mechanics of your network.

Knowledge cafés, Co-creative Learning and Conversational Leadership are all concepts that have demonstrated their usefulness to the public and private sector. Drawing on 25 years of experience in business and education, Jakob Werdelin is the first to fuse such approaches with outcome-focused educational best-practice.

"His organisational skills and attention to detail are impressive... "

- Anne Stokes, Head of Teaching School at Sheringham Primary National Teaching School Alliance, 2018, on Jakob as a delivery partner in their Strategic School Improvement Fund project.

Logistics

Our workshops comprise tightly guided and thoroughly supported collaborative activities in teams and pairs, interspersed with individual work, presentations and open plenaries. We design workflow and questions, provide bespoke materials, gather feedback and write a summary report of our observations for management upon request.

Your delegates may comprise all staff, representatives from various areas of expertise or even similar roles across different sites. It all depends on your organisation's size and your target outcomes. Workshops accommodate from 12 to 32 people.

To better foster a cohesive and collaborating group of proactive individuals with an emotional attachment to the success of your organisation, we recommend off-site venues to provide a safe social space.

Pricing is individually tailored to reflect the size of your organisation, your desired outcomes, and your number of delegates.

Sample workshop

The following sample workshop indicates how an effective and low-threat school merger might be achieved.

In connection with academy conversion, two small underachieving schools are merging under one leadership team. This is creating anxiety among staff about possible redundancies and shifts in routines, roles and responsibilities, which combine to reduce the intended benefits.

To address this problem, workshop delegates would comprise relevant staff from the two schools (and possibly representatives of concerned parents) and MAT leaders, as well as any MAT personnel responsible for routine administrative contact. Sample elements *could* include:

- Meet and greet, putting names to faces in highly personalised encounters.
- To share positive and negative expectations of the merger.
- Investigating and comparing the specific challenges and capacities of counterparts.
- Comparing and identifying best practice.
- MAT leaders being presented with findings and correlating input to affect incorporation and sharing of ideas and resources across sites.

The outcomes *include* founding and developing personal and professional relationships to current and future colleagues, more effective future collaboration, drawing up procedures, pre-empting practical as well as emotional issues, and increased understanding expectations and of areas of responsibility.

Call 07804 765 996 for a confidential and non-committal conversation about your situation.