

Conference Evaluation Form

Event Title	Tenth Joint Governors' Conference 'Leadership in Changing Times'
Venue	Bishop Burton College
Date of Event	Saturday 17th March 2018

Conference Experience	Very good	Good	Satisfactory	Poor
Overall, did the conference meet your expectations?	33	7	0	0
Additional comments: (2 x not answered)				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes – weather dodgy – did well, good IT support, all GATHER team really friendly. Like Hull + ER together – networking • Never been to a GATHER conference before so not had any expectations but found it very interesting • Always enjoy these conferences • I liked the table arrangement, better than sitting in rows. Very good talks, learnt a lot about governance; well done. • Refreshment and meals very good • As would be expected – usual attention to detail • Excellent event (again) many thanks for organising it • I liked the round tables for the main speech • This is the 3rd conference I have attended and have always found them very useful • Always nice to meet other governors • Keynote speech thought provoking. • Nice to acknowledge governors who have made outstanding contributions to their school • Very interesting debate on citizenship in the afternoon • High standard of venue and hospitality. • Balanced opportunity for discussion and contemplation • Very thought provoking • Yes always informative • Question and answer session was very helpful • Poor attendance which is a real shame!? Why is this – full day is a long day with other commitments • Can we order better weather next time please! • Always very well organised, liked the cabaret style table, great for networking. Governors Awards – fabulous - great to see governors receiving recognition. • Excellent presentation. Covered lots of points of great importance • A well planned and comprehensive experience as usual. • I particularly liked the 'cabaret' style seating in the hall: sitting at tables makes it much easier to take notes. 'Great idea having governor awards!' The lunch was excellent and not so much queuing as in previous years 				
General arrangements for the day	Very good	Good	Satisfactory	Poor
Information, venue, organisation	35	6	1	0
Additional comments:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better dining room • Very well sign posted, lots of parking & staff very pleasant • Great place, ideal • Very well organised • Very good! Good directions from car park to venue. Lots of refreshments. Excellent lunch. Well done! • I particularly thought the QA session was useful • Friendly staff, good food, well organised. Had some interference with the sound • Well organised and friendly • Great improvement – lunch, venue much better. Lay – out style very good • Really good. Lunch was very filling • Lunch was good – close by • The venue is excellent • The organisation for the day is efficient • Cold • I liked the seating arrangement for the morning – much better than rows – more relaxed and sociable. • The food was very good. I was dreading the long walk in the cold to the dining hall so was very pleased we were nearer this time 				

- Couldn't load the application form in original invitation. Gov team thanks for help with that
- Early sight of the agenda may have changed my view about attending
- Very well organised (in advance and on the day); lovely venue: really enjoyed lunch and refreshments
- Given the weather, everything was easy car parking, lunch etc. to move around – conference facilities very comfortable
- Well organised
- The building was very cold all day
- Staff so friendly and helpful
- Food and refreshments excellent as usual
- All very satisfactory thank you
- Very well organised
- Although I was rather late (losing way) the welcome was still there
- Food – fabulous.
- Rooms excellent- I enjoyed cabaret seating – much easier to engage and take notes. Better for discussing around the table too
- The actual day has been excellent but I was a little disappointed that neither I nor my school received confirmation of my attendance. I had no details of time or agenda... except from a flier in my FGB papers. I emailed to ask for info, but received no reply.

Keynote Address: Leadership in Changing Times (Tony Breslin)	Very good 29	Good 10	Satisfactory 2	Poor 0
---	-------------------------	--------------------	---------------------------	-------------------

Additional comments: (1 x not answered)

- Solid presentation, good perspective as policy maker & governor
- Very thought provoking especially around the realities of Academy Trusts
- Nice to have a speaker who knows what he's talking about
- Very engaging
- Informative & challenging
- Unfortunately I did not find Tony to be an inspirational speaker! As a volunteer to give up a Saturday, I do think it is important to be inspired 'to do the job' and go away with ideas/enthusiasm. Tony's delivery and content did neither for me. Sorry!
- He was very informative and brought up some good points to bring up and discuss with the other governors of my school
- Extremely interesting. Good that he was here all day
- Good speaker with a lot of useful things to say but poorly organised. He ran out of time and rushed the last parts of his talk
- Concentrated on the 'report' and would have preferred practical presentations on 'who governs our school'. However, useful to meet a person of his level and to hear his views. Continued to unite 'right project' peoples L5 conference.
- Speaker gave a lot for us to think about.
- Would have liked more suggestions and answers
- Different to the previous keynote speakers but very thought provoking nevertheless
- Very easy to listen to
- Thoughtful – some really new stuff in there to think about
- Very thought provoking – I really enjoyed listening to Tony, he spoke with passion, knowledge about complex issues which are fuelling us all
- One or two lightbulb ideas
- Excellent – some very interesting aspects that I hadn't previously considered
- They were entertaining and some of the content was interesting and thought provoking
- Some thought provoking information
- Very relevant to all settings (even as a special school), particularly the issues surrounding academies/MATs
- Though provoking interesting presentation with large measure of good sense
- I found this section very interesting. Whole heartedly agree with the speaker on the issues he raises. He correlated between the local participation of local school gov's, inclusion and attachment. The benefits and importance of a schools connections with its community
- Informative
- Clear statements
- Found him very interesting and made some very useful observations and points around governance.
- A well organised and rational presentation that made the issues very clear. Honest and insightful views shared
- Inspiring talk
- A slow burn, I was won over by halfway. A first I wasn't sure if he was not promoting a personal product. Lots of erms.....
- Superb, very much enjoyed this session, most inspirational
- Good presentation and thought provoking. Very relevant to governance.

Any Questions Session	Very good 26	Good 12	Satisfactory 0	Poor 0
Additional comments: (4 x not answered)				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insightful comments from panel, good headteacher response to support from chair • Some useful ideas for engaging children in governance • Very helpful • Very thought provoking, educational. • Good to have a national figure with this vast knowledge and experience • It is always good to hear questions/ answers. Save the morning for me! • Some very good points raised to take back to my school to question or put forward • Excellent, perhaps a wider panel would be useful next time • Best part of the morning session • Well organised and useful. • Would group discussions help? • ‘Values’ important • Useful • Good all round coverage • Long answers to questions, fewer topics discussed. • I would like to thank the panel for their time and for sharing their knowledge with us. • Might have been an idea to put post its on tables so people could jot down questions throughout the morning • Have taken away some serious ideas for consideration around pupil voice • Good range of questions • Great to see a special school represented on the panel. • Relevant and interesting discussion points. • Well led and organised – not too long spent on any one issue • Very useful. Appropriate questions with realistic answers • A must for future years • Interesting discussions all round • Some interesting questions rose. Well moderated • Good, relevant questions. No ‘silly’ questions • I found this element extremely engaging and informative. Rachel Davies quite inspirational • Good range of questions and answers • Would have preferred another panel member. • Great mix of questions and answers 				

Workshops				
Please complete for the workshop that you attended				
1. Citizenship - the school in the community, the community in the school. (Dr Tony Breslin)	Very good 6	Good 3	Satisfactory 0	Poor 0
Additional comments: (1 x not answered)				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good to have the opportunity to air issues • Some thought provoking discussion • Most valuable • Very rich conversation with good governor engagement • Interesting and valuable discussion opportunities with other governors in smaller groups. Not as relevant to special schools as I would like but none of the other workshops seemed to be either? • Schools who are effective in delivering citizenship to pupils are effective, inclusive schools themselves – this workshop made me think about our secondary schools which should be citizenship • Good chance for discussions • Really good • Heard different approaches to how to introduce into school. • Discussion group was useful • The points rose really got the group thinking and discussing very relevant issues. ‘In’ the community got left out a bit, which was a shame • Interesting discussion 				

2. Bold Beginnings in the Early Years - an exploration of the recent EYFS paper from OFSTED (Angela Jones)	Very good 7	Good 1	Satisfactory 0	Poor 0
<p>Additional comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent session by two very knowledgeable leaders • Huge topic well described; good clear speakers. Needed more time to finish. • Love the enthusiasm of the presenters – Early years really smaller. Thank you so much. Great resources – so much effort put into preparation • Very useful in supporting governor knowledge to look at data, visits to schools, questions to ask. • Perhaps too much content for time but very informative and well presented • Super, really found this useful • Very knowledgeable presenters well thought out. 				
3. Curriculum Challenge for Governors (Brian Stillings)	Very good 6 Excellent 1	Good 1	Satisfactory 0	Poor 0
<p>Additional comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very informative and well presented. Easily understood. Of benefit. • Give at interactive session, informative and absorbing. Lots of good ideas for challenge • Good sharing of ideas, challenge and support • We seem to be doing practically all the things recommended • (They added a box and wrote excellent) very appropriate, relevant and full of practical guidance. Good mix of activities 				
4. Analyse School Performance (Jon Ashbridge)	Very good 6	Good 4	Satisfactory 1	Poor 0
<p>Additional comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent – useful • Entertaining – honest and very informative • Had too much to deal with in a short time, needs to be a full day course • Very informative – shame didn't have more time for questions etc • A different take on using data • Brought data to life • Informative thanks! • Complicated subject. Explained well but still some not clear for a fairly new governor • Knows his subject but far too much information in a short time, needs to be longer • Would have preferred 'low' • Review relationship between school and GB – to check whether still effective 				

As a result of this conference, what are the issues/recommendations that you will take back to your own governing body/board?

- Recommendations list to GB, look at ASP
- Attendance at this conference is recommended, especially for new governors, structure of governing body if we join a trust
- I will have an agenda item to cascade headline items.
- Taken a list of questions, actions and recommendations (3 pages)
- Rewards/expenses
- Concept of a risk, register
- Literacy of staff reading governorship
- Consider parent voices
- Staff well being
- What do children think of governors/governance
- Need to give very serious consideration to the 'hand over' when becoming an academy as part of a MAT
- Ask more about data!
- The relationship between a governor, board of governors and MAT
- Governance arrangements

- Skills and values audits (rather than merely skills audits)
- To look at the barriers to our governing body reflecting the diversity of our community.
- To ensure we hold onto our values through changing times
- Ideas about staff well-being/charitable status issues ve. MATs
- Check school website re. curriculum
- Review of committee structure
- Inclusion thinking and its impact on attachment/achievement
- Direct involvement and action
- Young governors
- Work around pupil voice, visits to school and health & well being of staff
- Skill analysis for governing board to personalise their remit aligned to schools objectives
- Up the game of the governance for all staff and pupils
- Citizen rich school – check out where we are on the continuum and how to build skills in effective citizenship
- That more of our governors attend next year!
- Links between messages from key note speaker and recent NQA input on risk assessment for national/local changes and needs of school
- Secondary's that should be citizenship rich schools. Especially in disadvantaged areas or secondary's in the main are not - not open.
- Ensuring we have budget for governors training. We need more diversity in our governors body
- A lot of ideas about inspiration to take away
- Suggestion for curriculum involvement
- Citizenship values, a broad and balanced education school values to be known by all
- Wellbeing of HT, SLT and Staff
- There was some interesting ideas shared on pupil voice etc
- Discussion on inclusion of curriculum outcomes etc on school website – including possible problems with Data Protection
- Will share pack with exec head and co-chair. Write report sharing relevant issues
- The phrase 'governance literacy' is a strong way of swimming up the ideas I'm taking back. Plus: ideas on emphasising citizenship within the school

Please indicate any further training/development needs

- AGM + more info on governance – good standard
- Keep up the good work
- Need to get more members of the governing body to be proactive
- How does MAT work? What influence does a governor have on a GB and how this influenced by a MAT
- Future conference annually
- Getting the most out of the people around the table.
- Gathering voices – pupil/staff/parents/ governors
- Supporting disadvantaged groups – what can governors do
- School sustainability and developing strategic partnerships and proactive networks with other schools and agencies
- Specific training for staff/teacher governors
- Staff wellbeing and the role of the governing body
- Can everyone come to the event on the 23rd of May as normally only chair of governors
- Not inviting, that might be because the gov and culture of education is focussed on driving attainment. We attained one of the last
- Local is good
- Check next step after safeguarding certificate
- Transition to MAT

Any further comments?

- None, enjoyed it
- Great day, sometimes good to hear that you are doing things right.
- Great idea to have joint Gov/SLT conference/meet
- Need to understand the relationship between being a governor and the MAT.
- Enjoyed the 'Networking'
- Worthwhile day
- The opportunity to network is another valuable aspect of this day

- Thank you – an invaluable opportunity for reflection
- Most helpful
- Thank you lovely lunch on very cold snowy day
- The day could have been condensed into a shorter time
- Excellent day – thanks
- Tea, coffee, drinking water available in syndicate rooms
- BSF grant of £440m so we have beautiful secondary schools that have closed sign up to their communities in the mail. One of the main barriers for me as a local governor (LAUH) was getting a secondary school governor body who refused to allow me on their board
- It has been a very interesting day, well done
- Very interesting and helpful information
- So sad at the drop in attendance even before the weather let us down! Excellent prep. Catering, speakers and networking opportunities. Thanks
- Thank you for your commitment to the day