

David Carne

David leads on Business Development, edits our SkillSEt magazine, as well as overseeing our suite of Coaching, Supervision and Mentoring products and services. Having spent 16 years as a senior leader in a variety of schools, he is passionate about helping to develop exceptional leaders and creating organisational cultures in which people can excel. He has a wealth of experience in developing professional networks, building mutually beneficial professional partnerships, project and programme leadership, and coaching high performing leaders.

During his time as an Educational Leader, David also worked as a procurement manager for an educational charity, supporting schools to secure better quality products and services at lower prices using buying frameworks. He also works as a freelance Executive Coach with a wide variety of clients across public, charity and commercial sectors. Immediately prior to joining LLSE, David was Deputy Programme Lead for the Department for Education Early Careers Framework programme at CAPITA.

Never one to stop learning, David holds an MSc in Applied Positive Psychology and postgraduate qualifications in Business and Educational Leadership, Executive Coaching, and Mentoring. David's interest in leadership research means he also works with our university partners on undertaking and disseminating academic research on leadership to a wider leadership audience.

When not working on exciting projects for LLSE, David is also a qualified wine educator and writer.

Sebastian St John

Sebastian St John is LLSE's Programme and Development Lead, bringing over two decades of dedicated experience in education leadership. His career spans diverse contexts, from leading schools in the UK to an international Headship. Sebastian is deeply committed to school improvement, professional development, and the transformative power of values-driven leadership. An ILM-qualified Leadership Coach, he has played a key role in the design and delivery of NPQ programmes, nurturing current and future educational leaders. His passion lies in cultivating environments where both staff and students can truly thrive.



#KALEConference2025

Workshop Description

Joyful Interference Coaching

Even the most committed leaders can lose touch with the joy that first brought them to education. The pressures, pace, and emotional weight of headship can crowd out the space to think clearly, reflect meaningfully, and connect with the moments that matter. This workshop introduces “joyful interference”—a coaching mindset and set of practices that deliberately interrupt negative cycles of overthinking, self-criticism, or isolation. It helps leaders analyse their wins, reframe challenges, and use coaching as a source of personal restoration as well as professional growth.