

Contender Charlie - An Inspirational Leadership Course based on Shakespeare's Henry V

The school closed early on Wednesday 2nd February 2011 for this extended innovative training session.

Teaching staff and a range of colleagues from the wider school workforce learnt about inspirational leadership with key points articulated through the plot of Henry V. Staff participated in four practical exercises designed to give an understanding of contrasting styles of leadership. The process enabled them to acknowledge both their own leadership strengths and blind spots, but also gave a useful reference point to further explore the ideal of a fully integrated leader.

The four experiential exercises were: **creativity, nurture, action and order.**

From this participants were able to delve deeper into their own leadership style:

- **'Warrior'** – motivating, persuasive, forceful and best working through action;
- **'Medicine Woman'** – creative, adaptable, animated and effective at adapting to change;
- **'Good King'** – deliberative, methodical, informative and preferring order in leadership
- **'Great Mother'** – reassuring, encouraging, supportive, nurturing workers to gain the best from them.

Staff discovered that Henry experienced key leadership phases throughout the play, and were given modern day equivalent situations that leaders may experience with possible solutions:

WHOLE GROUP

CREATIVITY

ACTION

NURTURE

CREATIVITY

ACTION FROM ON HIGH

ORDER

VISIBLE LEADERSHIP
↓
PRIVATE TRUTH
↓
TIME ALONE
↓
LISTEN TO THE TROOPS
↓
UNLOAD BURDEN
↓
ACKNOWLEDGE SHADOWS
↓
CORE VALUES
↓
INSPIRE TROOPS

The session was a resounding success; the feedback was very positive:

'A stimulating afternoon that made me grow as a leader and understand the contribution I make to my school.'

'The session made me realise that you need all types of leaders in a team and that you can be a different leader in different situations.'

Ms G Smyrk
Director of Training School