

Leading Business & Operations Teams

Excellence in Practice

Cohort 5 -Recruiting for March 2026



Learners First is proud to be recruiting Cohort 5

Professional Learning & Networking for MAT/School leaders of Business Operations

Are you:

- School or central team based with the responsibility for leading people and change in an area of business function in or across your school or MAT?
- Curious about what 'Operational Excellence' & ISBL Industry standards look like in different school and MAT contexts?
- Keen to explore strategies to build relationships, effectively lead others and communicate with impact to get the outcomes you want?
- Seeking a network of peers, headspace to reflect and gain exposure to sector expert leaders, and guest speakers in the business of education?
- Interested in visiting another school or MAT on an 'curiosity' visit to see different contexts to your own?

If so, this opportunity could be for you...

This experience is suitable for those responsible for leading a team/s to deliver operational excellence in schools and MATs such as Finance, Estates, Governance, HR, Communications & Marketing, Commercial (Procurement), IT, Business Managers & more.

Delivered by sector experts through a blend of face-to-face sessions, webinars, elective site visits and concluding in a short VIVA presentation, we will challenge and support you to reflect on your own leadership and influence. Self-reflection tools, inter-sessional reading and evidence informed leadership strategies will help you get 'buy in' from your colleagues and explore the multi-faceted and essential role you play in schools and MATs. This is a great opportunity to share practice with peers too!



Learning Focus

Your Leadership Mindset:

Being in the 'Business of Education', Creating the Conditions for Growth & Improvement (self and organisation)

Leading Strategy for Change:

Change & Risk Management Processes, Public Speaking, Communication & Demonstrating Impact

Leading Highly Effective Teams:

Knowing Your Teams, Developing Talent, Courageous Conversations & Conflict Resolution

Leading Operational Excellence in A Changing Landscape
Effective Partnerships, Agility, Collaboration & Innovation for the future



Dates, Times & Venue

Venue: Nexus MAT HQ, Enterprise Works, Sheffield S9 1EA

Workshop 1: March 26th 8.45-3.30 pm (in person)

Workshop 2: April 17th 9.00-10.30 am (Webinar)

Workshop 3: May 18th 8.45-3.30 am (in person)

Workshop 4: June 3rd 2.30-3.30 pm (Webinar)

Workshop 5: June 19th 8.45-3.30 pm (in person)

Workshop 6: July 14th 8.45-12.30 pm (in person)



Application & Cost

Cost: Fully funded for partner schools & MATS to Learners First/PCA or £450 per participant for other schools

Apply:

Scan the QR Code to Apply directly or contact us to find out more.

