

## Governance Leadership Programme – Blog – April 2019

- **Name:** Fiona McSorley
- **Position:** Vice Chair
- **MAT/Org:** The Collegiate Trust
- **Programme:** Governance Leadership Programme

Fiona was part of the 2018 cohort of the Governance Leadership Programme delivered in partnership between Ambition Institute and the Confederation Schools Trust (CST).

As a recent appointment to a Trustee Board of an expanding MAT, Fiona was keen to find high-impact training to support her in her new role.

Fiona hoped to gain a wider understanding of her trustee role. This included specialist knowledge of holding a MAT to account, alongside building a network of peers who she could share experiences with.

“I can highly recommend this course as it has given me the wider understanding of the trustee role I sought and the knowledge of the areas that are vital in overseeing and holding to account the work of a MAT.

“The residential was a great introduction to the course as it provided networking opportunities to share experiences with fellow course members. It also gave the chance to meet my assigned mentor who is there to support you throughout the course. My mentor was vital in my learning journey. I entered the course disillusioned about the role of a trustee and unsure whether I should continue. My mentor gave me the clarity behind my role and the confidence to see it through in meetings and beyond.

“I really enjoyed studying the compulsory units. That might seem a bit geeky but the online units covered so many of the wide-ranging areas you need to know about in your role as a trustee.

“Even in units I knew a lot about already, such as data, I found I broadened my knowledge and units such as the Managing Compliance, Risk and Reputation were totally new to me but extremely valuable. Completing them at home, in my spare time and at my own pace was convenient.

“Another bonus is the ability to personalise the masterclasses to your needs. I chose ones that suited my own growing MAT so the ‘Growing sustainably’ masterclass was ideal for me.

“The course has a wonderful balance between ensuring it delivers the knowledge and skills but also it can be personalised to your role and school/MAT situation. There is a flexibility that will suit people from different backgrounds and you will always have individual support provided by your mentor.

“Despite my earlier doubts, I have developed my role on the board and am now the vice chair and the proud owner of my certificate for completing the course.”

We’re now recruiting for the next cohort of the Governance Leadership Programme. You can find out more about the course and [how to apply here](#).