



HALE SCHOOL



IBSC Australasian Regional Conference

PURPOSE AND IDENTITY:
Leadership and learning for social-emotional
and academic wellbeing in boys

19 - 21 MAY 2025

HALE SCHOOL, PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

IBSC Australasian Regional Conference



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PURPOSE AND IDENTITY: Leadership and learning for social-emotional and academic wellbeing in boys

Designed for primary, middle and high school educators in both boys' and co-educational schools, this event will explore strategies to boost boys' resilience, self-esteem and interpersonal relationships. Conference sessions will equip school leaders, teachers and co-curricular staff with valuable insights and practical tools.

Keynotes from renowned presenters, **Ben Walden of Contender Charlie**, **Professor Andrew Martin of the University of NSW**, and **Tom Batty, Executive Director of the International Boys' Schools Coalition (IBSC)** will supplement practitioner-led workshops designed to offer practical strategies for a broad range of contexts.

Conference sessions will address themes relevant to boys' wellbeing and identity, explore strategies to help them understand their values and sense of purpose, and emphasise the importance of relationships, positive belief and autonomy in enhancing social-emotional wellbeing. We will also explore concepts of academic wellbeing, focusing on motivation, buoyancy and belonging, drawing on findings from the recent IBSC global research study that identifies high-impact strategies for teachers.

This is a must-attend event for educators committed to boys' holistic development.

REGISTER NOW



CONFERENCE PROGRAM OUTLINE



HALE SCHOOL



MONDAY 19 MAY

6.30pm - 8.00pm

Optional public lecture: Mr Ben Walden – **Presence and communication**

Memorial Hall

TUESDAY 20 MAY

9.00am	Registration and networking coffee	Cygnets Theatre foyer
9.30am	Welcome and opening remarks: Dr Peter Coutis (Deputy Headmaster, Hale School) and Mr Ross Featherston (Vice Chair, Australasia, IBSC)	Cygnets Theatre
9.40am	Overview of the event, objectives and logistics	Cygnets Theatre
9.45am	Keynote address: Mr Ben Walden – Henry V lessons in leadership	Cygnets Theatre
11.15am	Morning tea	Cygnets Theatre foyer
11.45am	Featured session: Mr Tom Batty (Executive Director, IBSC) – Leadership in schools	Cygnets Theatre
12.30pm	Breakout session 1: Interactive workshop sessions	Various locations
1.15pm	Lunch	Cygnets Theatre foyer
2.00pm	Breakout session 2: Interactive workshop sessions	Various locations
2.45pm	Featured session: Father Thomas Couper (School Chaplain, Hale School) – The purpose of education	Cygnets Theatre
3.30pm	Featured session: Dr Mark Dowley – Classroom management and teacher retention: What can schools do?	Cygnets Theatre
4.15pm	School tour	Various locations
5.00pm - 7.00pm	Networking drinks and canapés	Cygnets Theatre foyer



CONFERENCE PROGRAM OUTLINE



HALE SCHOOL



WEDNESDAY 21 MAY

9.00am	Networking coffee	Cygnnet Theatre foyer
9.25am	Day 2 welcome and recap	Cygnnet Theatre
9.30am	Keynote address: Professor Andrew Martin – Supporting boys' academic, co-curricular and social-emotional wellbeing	Cygnnet Theatre
10.30am	Morning tea	Cygnnet Theatre foyer
11.00am	Breakout session 3: Interactive workshop sessions	Various locations
11.45pm	Featured session: Mrs Paula Santos and students – Empowering student voice	Cygnnet Theatre
12.30pm	Lunch	Cygnnet Theatre foyer
1.15pm	Interactive Heads of School Panel	Cygnnet Theatre foyer
2.00pm	Closing remarks and future directions: Mr Dean Dell'Oro (Headmaster, Hale School)	Cygnnet Theatre
2.15pm	Conference ends	Cygnnet Theatre



GUEST SPEAKERS

DAY 1 Monday 19 May

Public lecture

6.30pm - 8.00pm

Guest speaker: Mr Ben Walden

PRESENCE AND COMMUNICATION

This keynote is designed to look at vital aspects of skilled communication and how we develop these in ourselves and in our students. We explore this through the lens of the physical, emotional and intellectual skills involved. From body language to tone of voice, emotional intelligence to sense of purpose, multiple factors are of influence.

The talk will propose that these skills are vital to developing young leaders and to supporting students in their wellbeing and sense of personal fulfilment.

Occasionally, outstanding communicators may be born with exceptional propensity for this skill. Far more often they achieve this through their nurture, educational influences and attitude.

DAY 2 Tuesday 20 May

Keynote address

9.45am - 11.15am

Keynote speaker: Mr Ben Walden

INSPIRATIONAL LEADERSHIP, LESSONS FROM SHAKESPEARE'S HENRY V

What makes an outstanding leader and how do they inspire and motivate others? How do we examine this in an educational context for teachers and others in a visible leadership role in school?

This is not an acting programme nor is any previous knowledge of Shakespeare's work necessary to attend. Participants are introduced to the story and presented with several key themes which go far beyond the metaphor of battlefields and into the realm of our own leadership journey and challenges as educators. Key themes include:

- Embodying and communicating our vision
- Motivating teams
- "The Dark Night" - managing fear, uncertainty and doubt
- "Turning the battlefield into a garden"

Mr Ben Walden

Ben Walden is an international speaker and workshop leader in the realm of education.

He has been a main keynote speaker at many international conferences and also works with individual schools, looking at themes of leadership and inspiring communication with both staff and students.

In the 1990s he played several leading roles in London's West End theatre and as a member of the inaugural company at the new Shakespeare's Globe. He has also spoken on leadership and the arts at many business conferences, including at both Harvard and Columbia Business Schools.



CONFERENCE GUEST SPEAKERS



HALE SCHOOL



DAY 2 Tuesday 20 May

Featured session

11.45am - 12.30pm

Featured speaker: Mr Tom Batty

LEADERSHIP IN SCHOOLS

From classroom to Head's chair, across the rich, broad spectrum of school life, leadership determines individual experiences and a school's capacity to flourish. Through reflection on the nature of leadership and the purpose of education, attendees will be challenged to ponder their own philosophy of education and gain insight into how it can manifest across all settings, through school culture, organisation and physical environment in pursuit of school mission and the best outcomes for those we serve.

Mr Tom Batty

Tom Batty began his teaching career in New Zealand after an early stint in financial services. He worked in boys' education at St Patrick's College (NZ) and Waverley College (Australia) before teaching mathematics and serving as a house master at Eton College (UK). In 2008, he became the ninth principal of Scotch College, Melbourne.

Introduced to the IBSC while at Eton, Batty attended his first IBSC conference in 2009, hosted the 2012 conference at Scotch College, and later served as IBSC Board Chair from 2018-21. With over 30 years in boys' education across New Zealand, Australia and the UK, he has explored global approaches to developing young men.

Batty, who became IBSC Executive Director in 2022, has a keen interest in the intersection of education, society and economics.



DAY 2 Tuesday 20 May

Featured session

2.45pm - 3.30pm

Featured speaker: Father Thomas Couper (School Chaplain)

THE PURPOSE OF EDUCATION

This session will take a balcony view of the question at the heart of education, "Why?" What is the purpose of our time spent at school and what is the end we are aiming for as individuals and societies when we embark on this project? The answer we ascribe here has huge implications for how we teach and what we prioritise in schools. Is it true that the way we have framed education in recent times has been detrimental to staff, students and our society at large? This address will be provocative and inspiring as we imagine how the purpose of education could be re-narrated for the generations to come.

Father Thomas Couper

The Reverend Tom Couper was born in New Zealand but moved with his family to Australia when he was six years old. He grew up in Central Queensland and attended an all-boys boarding school in Yeppoon on the Capricorn Coast. After school, he studied Education in Brisbane and went on to teach Physical Education and History for five years before moving to London in 2009.

Tom continued to teach in London until 2017 when he began his formation for ministry in the Church of England at Westcott House in Cambridge. After ordination, Tom worked in a church in West London for three years before moving to Perth in 2022 to take up the position of School Chaplain at Hale School.



CONFERENCE GUEST SPEAKERS



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DAY 2 Tuesday 20 May

Featured session

3.30pm - 4.15pm

Featured speaker: Dr Mark Dowley

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT AND TEACHER RETENTION: WHAT CAN SCHOOLS DO?

Join international Amazon best-selling author and practising teacher, Dr. Mark Dowley for a session that explores the latest research into behaviour and teacher retention. It will share practical strategies to support teachers in improving behaviour and learning in schools. Watch footage of practising teachers and real classrooms, and see work samples of high-performing schools. This session will also share school structures to support teacher development and track progress using data.

Dr Mark Dowley

Dr. Mark Dowley co-authored the Amazon best-selling *Classroom Management Handbook*. He holds various positions including the Associate Head – Staff Development at the Crowther Centre for Applied Educational Research, Senior Fellow at the Centre for Coaching, Mentoring and Professional Learning at Leeds Beckett University, and Director of Programs for the Foundation for Positive Masculinity.

For over 15 years, Mark has taught and presented in schools from Papua New Guinea to New York and has received multiple teaching awards. He is the Chair of Mastery Schools Victoria and consults internationally to schools on culture, belonging and behaviour. Mark completed his Doctor of Education and Masters in Education Policy (International) at the University of Melbourne.



DAY 3 Wednesday 21 May

Keynote address

9.30am - 10.30am

Featured speaker: Professor Andrew Martin

SUPPORTING BOYS' ACADEMIC, CO-CURRICULAR AND SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

To help boys flourish at and beyond school it is vital to foster and sustain them in three major areas of wellbeing: academic, co-curricular and social-emotional wellbeing. In this presentation Andrew will share progress and insights from a current UNSW-IBSC international research project investigating the educational practices that support there. The research seeks to identify strategies for professional practice and resources to support teachers, co-curricular leaders and schools to enhance and sustain boys' holistic educational development. The presentation will summarise topline findings from Part 1 of the project: a large-scale international survey of over 17,000 boys. Indicative findings from Part 2 will also be shared: an in-depth international survey of 73 teachers and co-curricular leaders specifically identified as exemplary educators in their school. Next steps in this groundbreaking project will also be discussed.

Professor Andrew Martin

Andrew Martin, PhD, is Professor of Educational Psychology in the School of Education at the University of New South Wales. He is also Honorary Research Fellow in the Department of Education at the University of Oxford. Andrew is recognised for his research on student motivation, engagement, learning and achievement. In the latest Stanford/Elsevier rankings of citations, Andrew listed in the top 25 of the world's 95,000+ authors indexed in education. He also listed top five in the latest five-yearly international rankings of the most published educational psychologists. Andrew has also written three books for educators and parents, published in five languages.



CONFERENCE GUEST SPEAKERS



HALE SCHOOL



DAY 3 **Wednesday 21 May**

Featured session

11.45am - 12.30pm

Featured speaker: Mrs Paula Santos and students

EMPOWERING STUDENT VOICE

Join us to explore the transformative power of student voice in shaping educational experiences and outcomes. This session will feature segments led by boys themselves, providing firsthand insights into the impact of their involvement in decision-making processes. Participants will learn about the importance of listening to and incorporating boys' perspectives, supported by successful case studies and practices. We will also explore strategies for fostering an inclusive environment where students feel valued and heard. Discover how empowering student voice can lead to more engaged, motivated and successful learners.

Mrs Paula Santos

Paula is a dedicated professional with over 20 years' experience in pastoral care, boarding and mathematics teaching. As the Director of Students and Leadership at Hale School, Paula is a passionate advocate for student voice, collaborating with various student leaders and committees to foster a positive school climate and enhance wellbeing programs. Having taught in schools in South Africa, Portugal and Australia, Paula brings both national and international perspectives to the role and leverages a broad range of understanding to shape the student experience. Paula is joined by current and former students who have been instrumental in driving initiatives during their time on committees and leadership groups.

