

# Case Study

## Henley Professional Certificate in Coaching MSc in Coaching & Behavioural Change



### Gordon Walker

Executive Coach,  
Interim and Advisory,  
Gordon Walker Associates.

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*"I now analyse books and situations with a new set of eyes"*

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### Gordon, what made you want to join the PCiC programme, and why did you choose Henley?

'I was coming to the end of my corporate career and considering what I might do next. In discussion with my executive coach we explored my desire to build on the mentoring, coaching and staff development work I had performed during my career, and I decided to set up a coaching consultancy of my own.

'I realised that I needed some accreditation to compete in the marketplace, and several people I knew who had studied at Henley were very enthusiastic about the programme. I had heard of Henley's reputation, of course, and they convinced me that I'd love it, so I decided to give it a go.'

### And did it live up to expectations?

'On day one, I did wonder if I was in the right place! I was older than most of the students, and many of them were in HR. But once we started looking at different tools and techniques, I realised that my previous experience would stand me in good stead and I felt much more comfortable.

Just being at Henley for the first time was a great experience – there's something really magical about the place! The people I was with were terrific and we all learned so much from each other, particularly during the group sessions – and especially the unscripted time. Having that camaraderie and the opportunity for exploration with one's peers was extraordinary. The enthusiasm and commitment of the tutors and the content of the programme enabled and encouraged the development of these relationships.

'The programme also introduced me to reflective writing – not something I'd ever experienced before – and this enabled me to explore some of the limits I'd been working with and to realise how to use that knowledge to be more effective for my coachees.'

### What impact has the programme had on you?

'I now analyse books and situations with a new set of eyes. My self-awareness and monitoring have improved immensely, so that I am more effective not just in coaching, but across my consulting and pro bono portfolio.

'I've gained a fresh appetite for knowledge, so I have been re-reading the course texts and other business books with a whole new perspective and I have enrolled on the MSc in Coaching and Behavioural Change to continue my development.

'I've grown my coaching practice and now have a range of clients. In that regard, the programme has more than met my original objectives.'

### And what advice would you give to anyone considering the PCiC programme at Henley?

'Just do it! Whatever level you're at, it will change you forever – and for the better. When you go over the cattle grid at Henley, it's like a switch has been thrown and your emotional receptiveness comes alive.

'Being a learner in this programme also comes with a responsibility to participate in the learning experience of the group by actively sharing your learning and experiences with the group and learning from one another. I'd rate this as a very good programme.'

