

Case Study

MA Leadership



Jo Marchant
Strategic Business Leader,
Meadowfield School

“There are top class tutors who deliver relevant... content, and the support is second to none”

“I’m much more confident in my role as a leader now in addressing the leadership challenges with which I’m faced”

Jo, having already done an MBA, why did you choose to take the MA Leadership programme?

‘I was given a promotion just over a year ago, and felt that I needed some formal leadership training to make an effective transition from my previous role as a manager to my new role as a leader. When I saw an online advertisement for a competition at Henley for a scholarship on the MA programme, I decided to apply. Although I didn’t win the full scholarship, I was offered a part scholarship, which I was very pleased to accept.’

What have been the highlights of the programme so far?

‘Having been on the programme for a year, it has already far exceeded my expectations. I’ve worked in education for 7 years and been on lots of courses, but this really is at the cutting edge of learning development and has provided me with opportunities I would never have had elsewhere.’

‘The range of people on the programme is so diverse, and it’s been really useful for me to mix with leaders from other sectors. I’ve been especially inspired by their willingness to share their ideas and experience and I feel I’ve been empowered by that, both personally and professionally.’

‘The tutors have been great and I’ve been given developmental opportunities that I wouldn’t normally be able to experience. For example, one of the highlights has been being put through my paces by a professional journalist at a mock press interview and then being given feedback on how I performed. I’ve also been encouraged to try out different presentation styles which has taken me out of my comfort zone but the tutors and other programme members have been such a supportive audience and the feedback has been very constructive for me.’

So what impact has it had, on both you and on the organisation?

‘I’m much more confident in my role as a leader now in addressing the leadership challenges with which I’m faced. The course requirement to formulate my own individual leadership development plan has played a pivotal part in that.’

‘The assignments on the programme have helped me to implement more effective strategies in my organisation, and the Action Learning problem solving strategy that I’ve learnt on the course is something that I’ve found very useful both at work and personally.’

How does the MA Leadership compare to the MBA you previously completed?

‘The MBA was about management; this programme is very definitely about leadership, and I haven’t seen much overlap between them. The MA complements the MBA and I’d encourage any MBA graduate to think about doing it.’

What advice would you give to anyone considering the Henley MA Leadership programme?

‘There’s currently no course like this, and studying at Henley takes you away from your day job, enhancing your ability to think and reflect. There are top class tutors who deliver relevant, pertinent content, and the support is second to none. Add to that the beautiful location, and I can honestly say that this is the best learning experience I’ve ever had.’

i For information, please contact:

Henley Business School
Greenlands
Henley-on-Thames
RG9 3AU

exec@henley.ac.uk

Tel +44 (0) 1491 418 767

17.MKT.168

henley.ac.uk/MALeadership