

National New Heads Conference 2008
Your views from the conference – video transcript

"First of all offer my congratulations to all those of you who have become new heads."

"Good leadership is ten percent action and ninety percent communication. The core of the job of being a headteacher is that you've got to smile."

"Great to have you here. We have huge values and values that we want to promulgate through our schools. And we have to fight against, I think, the numbers game of measuring education by numbers, and it's values that count."

"Being a new headteacher is very exciting. I find it very inspirational. I honestly think it's the best job in the world. I go to work every day smiling."

"Finding your feet and hitting the ground running's been very exciting and lots of fun."

"The biggest thing is getting your head round realising that you're not a teacher anymore, you've got different jobs to do. Nothing beats when that first assembly and you stand and look over the children and you're working with your team and moving forwards for the children's outcomes. You know, that's the best feeling and that's why we do the job."

"It's a great opportunity to have your own school and to feel that you're actually making a difference to an awful lot of children's lives."

"Being a headteacher is scary, yet exciting at the same time. I feel very empowered and very motivated."

"It is the best job in the world."

"NCSL have had, well just really good training actually from the NPQH. It would have taken me a long time to put together some of the skills if I'd had to do that in any other way."

"They're incredibly supportive. The quality of the events they put on is fantastic."

"The opportunities like this to network with other heads from other areas, you know, other schools, other regions, is fantastic."

"I think everyone says being a head is lonely job. I think the support network you create by going through the NPQH is quite imperative really, and is a good support for your first term of headship."

"Really enjoyed NPQH. It was a very good programme. Taught me to be reflective. Taught me to think about where I was at and where I needed to go. NCSL as well, the online seminars, I did a couple of those leading up to interview and applying for headship. And again with the early headship provision, really, really very, very useful."

"The best thing about NPQH, it took you out of your environment and gave you time to start thinking about leadership."