

Lincoln HSE Conference 16.6.17

On 16th June 2017 Bishop Grosseteste University (BGU), Lincoln, hosted its second Human Scale Education (HSE) Conference. After a very successful half-day event last year on 'Transitions', it was decided to hold this year's over a full day on the subject of 'Relationships within Education'. Once again the conference was organised by Mark Plater (Senior Lecturer BGU) and Rosalyn Spencer (HSE Trustee) supported by a newly formed steering group whose members are all keen to see human scale values promoted in schools.

After Mark welcomed everybody to the conference, Rosalyn defined Human Scale Education:

'HSE is an education reform movement committed to small scale learning communities based on the values of democracy, justice and respect. HSE works directly with schools and parents to promote human scale learning environments where children and young people are known and valued as individuals. HSE believes that 'humanity of scale' and the 'primacy of relationships' should not only inform the design of our schools but should also influence our public sector services.'

She then continued to explain how the partnership between BGU and HSE came about.



This was followed by Deputy Vice Chancellor of BGU Professor Jayne Mitchell giving an enlightening opening speech talking about the values of the university which fit well with the philosophy of HSE by putting relationships at the very heart of education.

The first keynote speaker was Dr Rob Loe of the Relational Schools team who explored the ways in which schools can design and build relational school systems. His PhD research involved analysing relationships within education and he was able to demonstrate that pupils working with a teacher with whom they had a good relationship were able to improve their results beyond their original predicted grade. Audience participation in a couple of games led by Rob Loe led to much amusement in addition to demonstrating how our decisions are affected by our relationships with others.





David Taylor, Headteacher at Stanley Park High School, based in the London Borough of Sutton, was the second keynote speaker. David took over a failing school and turned it around by putting relationships at the heart of the agenda. The audience learned that he created four smaller schools within one school; introduced project based learning for Key Stage 3 pupils; and replaced typical parents' evenings with Pupil-led Conferences. His school was awarded Secondary School of the Year in the 2016 Times Educational Supplement Awards for its outstanding achievements.

After both morning and afternoon keynote talks, the delegates had the opportunity to participate in their chosen facilitated group discussion:



Rosalyn Spencer and Su Matthan leading the session entitled *Teachers developing home / school links*.



Whole school approach to relationships led by Rachel Paige.



Eve Stuart & Martha Wright ran the session entitled *Coaching as an approach to developing relationships*.



Dr Pat Beckley leading the session *Individual teachers developing relationships with Primary pupils*.



Individual teachers developing relationships with Secondary pupils led by Mia Sneyd.



*Dr Jenny Wynn led the session entitled *Student teachers developing relationships on placements.**



Relationship Training for student teachers was led by Robin Precey and Roger Wood.

The conference was deemed to be another great success. Some of the written feedback received included:

- * Excellent speakers - great examples of real practice
- * Both keynotes inspiring
- * Rob Loe's presentation was amazing!
- * David Taylor gave me much to think about
- * Great speakers and interesting to listen to
- * Discussion groups were good for debate and consolidation

Plans are already underway to hold another joint BGU / HSE conference next year. If you would like to be put on the mailing list for the next event please send your contact details to contact@rosalynspencer.co.uk