

Leader to Leader: September 2024 – February 2025

(Friday 27th Sept, 18th Oct, 15th Nov, 13th Dec, 17th Jan, 14th Feb – from 12pm to 2pm)

Navigating in a Turbulent World

This is a unique opportunity to be in a longitudinal learning conversation with fellow leaders over a period of 6 months, amongst all the challenges that this extraordinary period in our history is presenting to us.



We began this format in 2020 and it has been very fruitful and beneficial for all who have participated so far:

“a lifeline”,

“a refreshing space”

“to keep a clear perspective”

'Navigating a world in turmoil' was the topic of this year's annual lecture at Windsor and the turbulence we have been experiencing since the pandemic seems only to intensify. How do we access the wisdom to navigate as leaders in this context?

As Rainer Rilke says,

“I want to beg you, as much as I can, to be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart and to try to love the questions themselves – like locked rooms and like books that are written in a very foreign tongue. Do not now seek the answers, which cannot be given to you because you would not be able to live them. The point is, to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps you will then gradually, without noticing it, live along some distant day into the answer.”

Wisdom does not come from relying on old, familiar information. Nor does it come from rapid problem solving and decision-making. Instead, wisdom often unfolds from intentionally sitting with our questions.



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Pace, Space and Grace...

The hardest thing for anyone navigating and leading change in turbulent times is to maintain poise and perspective and not get caught up in the noise, angst and wasted energy that always accompanies it. This is all about managing our attention. We can find ourselves caught up in 'urgent' issues and passionate debates that in retrospect prove of little importance, whilst the real 'moments of truth' where a vigilant stance is needed, can often slip by unnoticed.

Our aim in this series will be to help each other do just that, to sustain our 'agency' in change.

We will explore three themes in particular:

Pace

- When to be patient and when to be demanding with those around us

Space

- Maintaining a cool head, warm heart and firm hand through our challenges

Grace

- Keeping it human, a big theme in our recent dinner – 'kindness' amidst turbulence

It is a forum in which we will openly share and honestly examine our own responses as leaders to events and experiences as they unfold over time, allowing us each to benefit from the longer term wisdom that emerges as we track our true trajectory through events, rather than being swayed by more immediate peaks and troughs.