



Welcome to

Leading Edge

*The national network for
high-performing schools*

ssat the schools, students
and teachers network



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The SSAT Leading Edge Network

Welcome

We are a long-established network of high-performing schools and we would like to invite you to join us.

Our network contains schools from a wide range of contexts, connected by a desire to learn from each other and work collaboratively. We share practical ideas and benefit from the collective wisdom of excellent leaders and teachers across the country.



The network is led by a steering group of Leading Edge headteachers, who work closely with the team at SSAT to ensure that the programme of activities is tailored to meet the needs of high performing schools.

We'd love you to join the conversation.

Welcome from the Chair of the Leading Edge Headteachers' Steering Group

Welcome to the Leading Edge programme.

“As school leaders, we constantly make choices about where to invest our time, energy and professional commitment, including which networks we engage with. Leading Edge brings together a community of innovative, driven and like-minded schools who are eager to collaborate and learn from one another.

For us, this work sits at the centre of our ambition to challenge ourselves, grow and continually improve – not by simply comparing ourselves to neighbouring schools, but by engaging in meaningful partnership that pushes our thinking further.

We deeply value the collaboration, shared inspiration and collective learning this network provides, and we are delighted to welcome you into it.”

Rob Carter, Executive Headteacher, St Paul's Catholic College,
Chair of the Leading Edge headteachers' steering group.



Our programme for 2026-27 includes:

▶ **Connections for headteachers**

Termly 'Heads Together' meetings provide an opportunity for headteachers to discuss key issues with like-minded colleagues. The focus for meetings is decided by the steering group or at the request of headteachers in the network. Where appropriate, we invite external guests to join the conversation.

▶ **Connections for senior leaders**

The SSAT Framework for Exceptional Education is updated bi-annually by Leading Edge schools at a planning day. Leading Edge schools can apply to be accredited for 'transforming' practice in up to four strands of the framework per year. The accreditation process involves a peer review with another school and a visit from a member of the Leading Edge team.

▶ **Connections for subject leaders and teachers**

Regular Leading Edge sharing practice events enable teachers to gain an insight into what other high performing departments are doing in the network. Middle leaders share practical ideas and examples which colleagues elsewhere can use and there is an opportunity for discussion.

▶ **Leading Edge Leadership Conference**

An in-person event which enables Leading Edge headteachers and senior leaders to meet and collaborate. Leadership insights from Leading Edge headteachers, other inspirational leaders and sector experts.

▶ **Leading Edge visits**

A visit from a member of our team to support connections and discuss your work.

Joining the network

Eligibility criteria:

We consider performance data and Ofsted outcomes to identify schools with evidence of high performance. Schools may also submit additional evidence to demonstrate that they are high performing.

If you have any questions about the network or would like to discuss whether the network would be a good fit for your school, please don't hesitate to get in touch at leading.edge@ssatuk.co.uk.

Why join us?

“An excellent network - a great way to spend time with other great leaders.”

Tyson Lane, Headteacher, President Kennedy School

“A wonderful group of educators where collaboration for the benefit and growth of students is always at the forefront.”

Tim Harris, Headteacher, Summerhill School

“Collaboratively challenging each other to be more impactful for all our young people.”

Jane Waters, Executive Headteacher, Seven Kings School

“Great to meet leaders from other schools with interesting and compelling ideas for improvement.”

Michael Sullivan, Headteacher, Forest Hill School

Next steps

If you would like to have a discussion about whether Leading Edge membership is right for your school, please contact us on leading.edge@ssatuk.co.uk.