

# HOW'S YOUR VISION?

Leading through a theologically rooted Christian vision

## Event Schedule

Thursday 25 April – Weston Room, The Hostry, Norwich Cathedral

**08.45 Refreshments & networking**

**09.20 Welcome and outline of the day**  
The Very Revd Dr Andrew Braddock  
and Paul Dunning

**09.30 Opening Worship**  
St Nicholas Priory VA Primary School

**09.50 'I can do everything' – inspiring a vision  
of the possible, when it all seems so hard.**  
**Philippians 4:13**  
Mark Lacey, CEO Diocese of Salisbury  
Academy Trust

**10.50 Break**

**11.15 How to cast a vision that can be seen  
everywhere**  
Gemma Gillard, Founder and CEO  
Truth Be Told

**12.15 Diocesan Board of Education  
Strategic Plan 2024-2030**  
Paul Dunning

**12.30 Lunch**

**13.30 Dance input**  
Springs Dance Company

**13.45 Starting at the Vision**  
Kerry Savage, Headteacher  
Homefield VC Primary School

**14.25 Representation Matters**  
Dean Gordon, Headteacher  
Phoenix Federation, Lewisham

**15.25 Closing remarks**  
Paul Dunning

**15.30 Refreshments & networking**

To book your **free** place please visit:

[www.DofN.org/headteachers2024](http://www.DofN.org/headteachers2024)

Use password: **HTconference 2024**

**Please note there is no parking at the Cathedral**

For directions and parking information please visit:

[www.cathedral.org.uk/visit](http://www.cathedral.org.uk/visit)



**Save the date**  
**Headteachers'**  
**Conference 2025**

# Conference Speakers



## Dean Gordon NPQH

Federation Headteacher  
Phoenix Federation

Dean Gordon is an accomplished educator who has made significant contributions to the field of education. He began his career as a teacher in his native Jamaica and subsequently moved to Southeast London, where he quickly ascended through the ranks, demonstrating his dedication and commitment to educational excellence.

In 2015, he assumed the position of Head of School at Grinling Gibbons Primary School, Lewisham. His exceptional vision played a pivotal role in the relaunch Grinling Gibbons and Lucas Vale Primary, which, in 2021, amalgamated under the new name of the Phoenix Federation. Following his further appointment as the Federation Headteacher in 2022, he was tasked with overseeing the school's strategic direction, which entailed greater responsibility and under his capable leadership, both schools have recently been awarded a 'Good' Ofsted rating, with Grinling Gibbons recognised for some 'Outstanding' attributes.

Despite the demands of leading two inner-city primary schools, Dean also strongly advocates for race equality and actively promotes diversity and inclusion in education. His tireless efforts have seen Grinling Gibbons awarded the Gold Race and Conscious Equality Charter Mark and Lucas Vale a Silver award for work in this area. Dean's contributions also extend beyond the schools as he volunteers as a mentor for the Leaders Like Us programme, serves on the Governing Body for Trinity, Church of England School and in addition is a member of the Lewisham Race Equality Steering group, where he advocates for the pupils in the borough who are most disadvantaged by the inequalities of the system within which we operate.



## Gemma Gillard

Founder & CEO  
Truth Be Told: Storytelling For Life

Gemma is a self-confessed 'purpose person'. She's a storyteller, storyteller and founder of Truth Be Told: Storytelling For Life. Truth Be Told is all about belonging. It's a storytelling charity that helps churches to connect with local families and older adults in care homes and other isolated groups in the community through creative, gospel-centred storytelling full of life, joy and hope. Gemma also helps individuals and groups to discover God's purpose for their projects and personal next steps. She lives on the Dorset coast with her husband Dan and their three children.

[www.gemmagillard.co.uk](http://www.gemmagillard.co.uk)

[www.truthbetold.org.uk](http://www.truthbetold.org.uk)



## Mark Lacey

CEO  
Diocese of Salisbury Academy Trust

Since September 2015, Mark has served as Chief Executive of the Diocese of Salisbury Academy Trust, which serves 5000 children in 28 primary schools across Wiltshire and Dorset. Previously, Mark served as Headteacher in a large challenging primary school in South Bristol, leading the school from inadequate to good. He was also the chair of the Malago Learning Partnership, a collaboration of 9 schools that shared a passion for the wider South Bristol area. In all these roles, Mark has been passionate about creating and maintaining an empowering vision for all.

The Diocese of Salisbury Academy Trust has a vision for the growth of thriving learning communities with the ambition of going 'beyond expectations for all of God's children'. The Trust's vision is built upon the words of Paul: 'I can do everything through Christ who strengthens me'. Mark relates the experience of Paul to his own and the Trust's struggles with achieving success, often in the most challenging of circumstances. He has made it his mission, along with his Leadership Team and Headteachers, to see this vision realised for children, families and staff right across their family of schools. The mission continues...with the help of God.

In addition to his role, Mark is a qualified executive coach. He has a Business Degree and a Masters in Educational Leadership and Management, which focused on the effectiveness of collaborative partnerships between schools. Mark has four children of his own and is active in the work of his church.



## Kerry Savage

Headteacher  
Homefield VC Primary

Kerry became the Headteacher at Homefield C of E VC Primary School in September 2022. Prior to becoming a Headteacher Kerry had worked as Deputy Headteacher for over 9 years in challenging schools within areas of high levels of deprivation across Suffolk and Norfolk. Kerry is an Early Years Specialist and has worked for the Local Authority and Early Excellence as an Early Years Advisor/consultant.

Since joining Homefield, Kerry and the team have worked closely with the children and all stakeholders to develop a vision that is theologically rooted, meeting the needs of all children. The vision was the first priority and it needed reshaping to ensure that was meaningful to all staff and children.

The Homefield Team have built a vision that has enabled them to shape the school's pedagogical approach to teaching and learning. This includes the development of an inspiring curriculum, where the children have the courage to take risks and follow their natural curiosity.