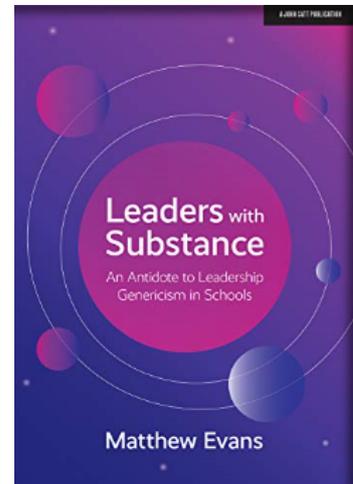


‘Leaders with substance’ by Matthew Evans

Book Review by Nigel Caunt

This book is an outstanding work based around leadership in today’s modern educational landscape, which is increasingly becoming an important issue. Strong, effective leadership is underpinned by trust and leaders who have substance. This book is exceptional in highlighting the key aspects required when thinking about this, and how important leadership is in a time of opportunity within the educational sector.



The opening of the book starts with what leadership even means and ‘is leadership even a thing’. In this chapter, Matthew Evans discusses the findings from a Lieutenant Colonel who published a paper titled ‘there is no such thing as leadership’. This is synonymous with the underpinning premise of this book which hopes to explore the multi-faceted issues around leadership within contemporary schools. From the start to the finish this book does not waste your time (which is all too precious in today’s education and is a highly prized commodity). It gives you the fundamentals of years of experience and research in a highly readable form, giving clear cut, succinct and practical case studies of how you can apply the thinking to your own setting.

The book acknowledges how complex the world of leadership is in education today having to not only manage a school, but equally the community in which you serve in equal measure, and the problematic issues that can arise with this. When reading through many of the different chapters, you will feel like you could have written this book yourself thanks to its ‘to the point’ approach. From one chapter to the next he applies leadership theory to the plethora of experiences he has clearly accumulated over his many years, and this all pushes towards a recognition of the importance of values driven visionary leadership within all our educational settings. This is truly a ‘must read’ for anyone aspiring to leadership in (or anywhere) in education.