

Dr Maria Evans FRSA she/her

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Introduction:	<p>An established and respected leader I specialise in providing professional support for individuals and organisations through consultancy, research, training and coaching.</p> <p>My work is underpinned by a deep commitment to supporting the learning, creativity and development of others within a fair, inclusive and sustainable society.</p>
Brief overview of career:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Director, Head-Line Communication Ltd• Teachers' Programme Developer, Royal Shakespeare Company• Senior Grants Manager, Paul Hamlyn Foundation• ESRC funded doctoral researcher, University of Warwick• Director of Education, Royal Shakespeare Company• Executive Director, arts4 (formerly arts4schools)• Student Support Manager, Chartered Institute of Management Accountants• Education Manager, Royal Shakespeare Company• Head of Drama and Theatre Studies, Widnes Sixth Form College• Assistant Administrator, Cheek by Jowl• Production Assistant, BBC Radio Drama
Summary of chief skills, knowledge and expertise:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Senior strategic, operational and team leadership within a large scale national organisation;• Leadership, management and delivery of a vast range of professional development courses;• Coaching and mentoring for all stages of careers, including leadership;• Post-doctorate level research in a variety of settings;• Project management of complex initiatives and events;• Senior grants management of cross art-form funds;• Expertise in working as consultant and adviser to a wide range of organisations across the creative and cultural sectors;• Confidence and experience as a public speaker, nationally and internationally;• Extensive contacts across the UK's cultural, creative and education sectors;• Significant experience of supporting digital learning opportunities; and• Highly valued expertise in creating safe, inclusive, respectful environments to support people in work, professional development and coaching contexts.
Most recent employment: 2008 to present	<p>Director, Head-Line Communication Ltd</p> <p>I have worked part-time as director of my own company since 2008, and full-time since 2018. Amongst a range of leadership roles I have developed particular expertise in supporting individuals and organisations as a trainer, consultant, researcher and coach. Significant projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Delivering leadership coaching, offering mentoring advice and guidance, and recently providing professional support to those facing redundancy or reduced employment due to the Coronavirus pandemic (2008-present);• Facilitating in-person and online CPD courses (2016-present);• Working as a lead researcher for the RSC on an Arts Council commissioned report into arts and cultural education in outstanding schools (2019-20);• Researching the impact of the work of Intermission Youth Theatre (2017-2019);• Researching and advising on the Arts Council's Catalogue of Cultural Resources for Schools (2013-2015);• Consultancy on the leadership-focused professional development work of Culture, Creativity and Education (2012);• Consultancy on the National Theatre's work for secondary schools (2011); and• Researching creativity and culture in the classroom for QCDA (2010).

Previous employment and research:	2016-2018 (part-time)	Teachers' Programme Developer, Royal Shakespeare Company My role focused on the strategy, design and management of the RSC's professional development programme for primary and secondary schools, ITE providers, and theatres across the UK. Within this role I initiated and co-delivered the new RSC Certificate in Teaching Shakespeare. I continue to be invited to co-deliver all current courses.
	2015-2016	Senior Grants Manager, Paul Hamlyn Foundation My role was to lead on the development and implementation of PHF's UK-wide strategy for supporting education and learning through the arts. I had responsibility for two funds with an annual distribution of £3million: the Arts-based Learning Fund and the Teacher Development Fund. The latter was a new fund: I oversaw its implementation and launch.
	2012-2017	Economic and Social Research Council funded doctoral researcher, University of Warwick My research investigated the lived experience of teaching Shakespeare. As part of my PhD I acquired or developed skills in conducting literature reviews; capturing of quantitative and qualitative data through surveys and interviews; analysing primary and secondary data; and writing up of findings to comply with rigorous academic requirements.
	2004-2008	Director of Education, Royal Shakespeare Company As a member of the senior leadership team, and Director of the Education Department, I <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • established and led an ambitious national and international strategy for the RSC's education work; • oversaw a change management programme within the education department; • initiated the RSC's ground-breaking Learning and Performance Network; • led a national and international consultation on successful ways of teaching Shakespeare; and • played a significant role in a partnership with the University of Warwick, which led to a successful HEFCE bid to create a cultural Centre of Excellence.
	2001-2004	Executive Director, arts4 (formerly arts4schools) I established my own company, providing leadership, information and support for those working in the arts or education. Key projects included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • delivery of a creative science programme for science teachers, commissioned by The Wellcome Trust and the DfES (2003-4); and • setting up and running the Inspiring Tomorrow's Audiences' conference (2003), the UK's first conference on digital and online arts educational resources for schools.
	1987-2001	In my earlier career I worked for BBC Radio Drama as a Production Assistant; Cheek by Jowl as Assistant Administrator; Widnes Sixth Form College as Head of Drama and Theatre Studies; RSC as Education Manager; Chartered Institute of Management Accountants as Student Support Manager.
Summary of key qualifications and training:	2017 2008 2007 2003 1993-94 1991-93 1983-86	PhD in Arts Education , University of Warwick Coaching Skills for Leadership , Cultural Leadership Programme Clore Leadership Short Course Diploma in Women in Management (Distinction) , Birkbeck College PGCE: Drama and English (Distinction) , University of Leeds MA: Arts Management in Education , City University, London BA: Drama and Latin , University College of North Wales
Voluntary roles:	2017-8 2003-16	Trustee, Pegasus Theatre, Oxford Various school governance roles
References:		Contact details available on request.