



VICTORIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE TEACHING OF ENGLISH

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‘Stepping Up’

The focus of this edition of Idiom is on **leadership** in English education. Following on from our last edition ‘Starting Out’, focusing on early-career English teachers, we shift our focus in this edition to exploring the experience of stepping up and taking on a leadership role in English education. This could range from managing the team of English teachers in your whole school community, as well as leading a year level or subject specific English teaching team. Stepping into the role of English leader can be both exciting and daunting – knowing that the work and the decisions of the English leader will have an impact on students from Year 7 through to VCE. Of course, the experience of the pandemic over the last two years has presented unique challenges but also opportunities for innovation and accelerated changes in English teaching and learning.

We want to hear from you!

If you are, or have been, an English leader, we’re interested in hearing about **your lived experience**:

- What do you enjoy about being an English leader?
- What are the challenges?
- What do you wish you knew before stepping into your leadership role?
- What advice would you offer any aspiring English leaders?
- What initiative/s have you introduced in your role as English leader?

We also want to hear from the wider English teaching community, including pre-service and early career teachers. We invite you to share your thoughts about the ways in which **effective leadership** supports you as an English teacher.

We also invite **practical suggestions and advice** for the following areas of responsibility for English leaders:

People

- Mentoring new and beginning teachers, both formally and informally
- Fostering collegiality and collaboration in the English team
- Supporting colleagues who lead year level or subject specific English teaching teams
- Working with librarians and other support staff
- Recruitment and interviewing
- Performance management, especially supporting underperforming teachers
- Dealing with conflict and navigating challenging conversations
- Supporting English staff in regional and rural school communities

Curriculum and innovation

- Advocating for subject English in your school community
- Curriculum design and innovation
- Developing student agency and engagement
- Text selection
- Lesson and unit planning
- Online teaching and learning
- Improving literacy skills; whole-school literacy
- Flipped learning
- Subject selection
- Auditing
- Special interest groups and initiatives

Assessment

- Managing and analysing data
- Developing tools for formative and summative assessment
- Bench-marking, cross-marking and moderation

Professional learning and networks

- Developing your identity as an English leader and your leadership style
- Arranging professional learning teams
- Recommended resources and professional learning programs and opportunities
- Use of research and professional reading
- Developing support networks with other English leaders

Other

- Running faculty and other English meetings
- Communication, including fostering and facilitating substantive conversations

What do we want?

We welcome your articles between **1000 – 2500 words** or **1 ½ - 3 ½ pages**. Please refer to the [Idiom Style Guide](#) for guidelines on how to format your contribution.

Submitting your article

Please email your submission and any accompanying image files to idiom@vate.org.au

Date for submissions

Thursday 12 May 2022 (please note revised due date)

Any queries?

Please get in touch with Josephine Smith, Managing Editor of Idiom: idiom@vate.org.au