AIM Leadership Programs – Financial Management for Senior Leaders

By Nicole Forrest, Deputy Principal, Cornish College

As a recent participant in the Financial Management for Senior Leaders course, I would highly recommend this course to other senior leaders. Having spent several years as a Team Leader in both student wellbeing and curriculum and, more recently, as Deputy Principal, there was one area of management that I had managed to avoid (quite deliberately!). Financial Management, I thought, was a phrase and practice best left to others!

In order to grow my knowledge and understanding of school leadership, I did recognise that financial management was a significant gap in my learning. I was pleased that Independent Schools Victoria offered a 2 day program on financial management tailored for senior leaders. From this program I gained a much greater understanding of our school’s financial management, particularly through improved financial literacy. Ultimately, I now have the confidence to join in the discussions and ask the right questions in our finance meetings.

The program objectives were clearly outlined and the various learning needs and experience of participants taken in to account from the beginning. Two factors really assisted my development during the program. One was the opportunity to work collaboratively with a range of participants, regularly testing out the theory that was being presented through learning activities. The other was to do with the presenter and the well-organised program. The program was delivered at an appropriate pace, with a focus on financial literacy and a combination of practical examples and storytelling that made for a personable approach to the content delivery.

This program would be of value to anyone in a senior leadership role, whether they have direct links with a budget or not. It’s a great link to add to your chain of understanding how schools operate.