

## National Boys' Education Conference K-12

---

### Boosting boys' achievements

#### The sound of significance: Listening for the origins of purpose in boys' lives

Dr Adam Cox  
Tiverton, Rhode Island

Child & Family Psychologist  
[adamcox@enter.net](mailto:adamcox@enter.net)



This presentation will highlight current findings from a global study on significance and purpose in boys' lives.

Dr. Cox will discuss the role of purpose in focusing boys, improving their motivation, and in pointing them toward the possibility of sustainable happiness.

Specific topics covered in this keynote include:

1. **Identifying** the key missing ingredient in the moral and psychological development of boys, and why boys are so much better at having fun than creating happiness.
2. **How the** adolescent passage has been changed by intense emphasis on academic achievement over other forms of mastery.
3. **How the** cognitive differences of boys shape their perceptions of life priorities, and why it is imperative for schools to acknowledge these differences in constructing curricula.
4. **How schools** and communities can work together to help boys discover their sense of purpose, and how dialogue with boys about purpose and significance is immediately transformational.

#### BioNote

Dr Cox, a psychologist and leading advocate for the social and emotional well-being of youth, is the author of *Boys of few words: Raising our sons to communicate and connect*. In this work, Cox probes the reasons for and consequences of boys' relative difficulty in communicating their feelings. His most recent book is *No mind left behind: Understanding and fostering executive control*. Dr. Cox is the principal researcher and writer for the International Boys' Schools Coalition's new project, *Locating significance in the lives of boys*.