

# National Boys' Education Conference K-12

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## Boosting boys' achievements

### Freeing the philosophical boy - recognising how boys' values differ from girls'

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Dr David Seedhouse has developed a web-based programme specifically designed to engage students in critical thinking across the curriculum. For boys, using Values Exchange has encouraged them to think hard about where they stand on any social issue. They are also challenged to explain their feelings and to offer reasons. These justifications are collated in the Values Exchange database and immediately fed back to the boys in the form of charts and text, which instantly reveal *values trends* for both individuals and groups. Through this online initiative, fascinating gender differences are emerging, suggesting that boys and girls use ethical/philosophical concepts differently. Dr Seedhouse will talk about the Values Exchange and the results it is producing; using interactive screens to give delegates an excellent overview of its potential. His presentation will be more a conversation than a lecture, asking the audience to speculate on the processes that the Values Exchange is revealing, while suggesting some possibilities of his own.

#### BioNote

David Seedhouse is a Professor at AUT University in New Zealand, as well as Staffordshire and Cumbria Universities in the UK. He is the author/ editor of 14 books on health and medical philosophy. However, his working life's passion is the Values Exchange, which he invented.