

david russell

School Leader

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New Zealand Citizen • Fully Registered Teacher (Aotearoa NZ Teaching Council) Practising Certificate No: 371921
Cambridge & IB Pathways • Curriculum Innovation • Pastoral Systems • Academic Excellence • Governance

ABOUT ME

I am a school leader with experience across senior leadership, curriculum innovation, academic achievement, pastoral systems, school operations and governance-informed decision-making. I care about building schools where people, systems and learning work well together: staff feel supported, students are known, and high expectations are clear and practical.

My experience spans private and international education, including Cambridge and IB pathway schools. I have led curriculum across Years 7-13, designed mentoring and pastoral structures, managed complex academic systems, and developed future-focused curriculum pathways that connect school learning with tertiary and industry-recognised opportunities.

At Wentworth Computer Science College, I serve on the Senior Leadership Team as Director of STEM, while continuing to teach senior Cambridge courses. Alongside my school leadership experience, I bring commercial and governance awareness through my B.Com and ACCA background, Institute of Directors membership and Board Director service with MedicAlert New Zealand.

LEADERSHIP SKILLS

Educational Leadership	Curriculum Innovation	School Operations
Pastoral Systems	Academic Excellence	Governance

KEY COMPETENCIES

1 School operations I contribute to SLT work across internal examinations, student induction, school administration, academic systems and strategic continuity planning.	2 Curriculum pathways I lead future-focused curriculum development across Computer Science and Commerce, connecting Year 7-13 learning with Cambridge and IB pathways and industry-recognised skills.
3 Pastoral systems I designed a school-wide hub-and-spoke Tutor-Time mentoring framework and authored Junior School Life Skills / RSE curriculum to strengthen student support.	4 Academic excellence I have supported outstanding academic outcomes, including students achieving Cambridge Top of New Zealand honours and IB grades well above global norms.
5 Governance awareness I bring board-level governance experience, financial literacy and risk awareness through MedicAlert NZ, IoD membership, B.Com and ACCA study.	

EXPERIENCE

Wentworth Computer Science College

Jan 2022 - Present

Senior Leadership Team | Director of STEM | Auckland, NZ

- I serve on the Senior Leadership Team with responsibility across STEM leadership, internal examinations, student induction, school operations and senior Cambridge teaching.
- I lead future-focused curriculum development across Computer Science and Commerce, while contributing to school-wide operational structures that support students, teachers and families.
- I designed and implemented a school-wide hub-and-spoke Tutor-Time mentoring framework and authored an integrated Junior School Life Skills / RSE curriculum.
- I developed a Year 9-10 Computer Science curriculum connecting middle-school learning with industry-based certifications including AWS and Microsoft, while supporting progression into Cambridge IGCSE and A-Level courses.
- I have contributed to strategic transition planning, including staffing mitigation, compliance continuity and systems-level planning designed to protect students, staff and families during institutional change.

ACG Parnell College

Mar 2019 - Jan 2022

Curriculum Coordinator, Computer Science Department & Senior Teacher | Auckland, NZ

- I led Computer Science curriculum delivery across Year 7-10 and Cambridge International IGCSE, AS and A2 pathways, with responsibility for curriculum planning, departmental coordination, budgeting, procurement and forecasting, while also teaching in the Commerce department.
- I redesigned the junior Computer Science curriculum around physical computing, coding, project-based learning and clearer progression into IGCSE, strengthening engagement and enrolment despite limited weekly contact time.
- I guided the department from legacy programming frameworks to industry-standard Python platforms and directly mentored students who achieved Top of New Zealand Cambridge honours.
- I was selected by senior leadership as a school-wide Technology Trainer and Mentor, designing and delivering professional development for teaching staff.

ELSA High School, Carmel School Association

Jul 2015 - Feb 2019

Director of Learning Systems | Director of Learning Technology | Head of Economics | Hong Kong

- Within an IB Continuum World School, I led across learning systems, academic administration, whole-school timetabling, WASC accreditation, Extended Essay coordination, educational technology, Computer Science and Economics leadership, balancing operational complexity with student pathway support.

ITS Education Asia

Oct 2009 - Jul 2015

Principal | Vice Principal | Teacher | Hong Kong

- I progressed from teacher to Vice Principal and Principal of a large multi-curriculum tutorial school supporting approximately 800-1,000 weekly student enrolments, leading around 30 teachers across IGCSE, A-Level, IB Diploma and AP programmes, with responsibility for recruitment, induction, quality assurance, student intake, parent communication and efficient school operations.

EDUCATION & CREDENTIALS

Education

- **Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) Candidate | University of Bristol | Expected 2026/2027**
Research focus: implementing IT certifications in Aotearoa NZ high schools through the lens of Mediated Learning.
- **Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Education Management | University of Bristol | 2016**
- **Advanced Diploma in Accounting and Business | ACCA | 2016**
- **Postgraduate Higher Diploma in Education | University of the Witwatersrand**
- **Bachelor of Commerce | University of the Witwatersrand**

Governance & Credentials

- Board Director | MedicAlert New Zealand
- Member | Institute of Directors (IoD) New Zealand
- International Credentials: Registered Teacher (Hong Kong Education Department)
- Microsoft Certified Educator & Office Specialist Expert
- Google Trainer
- IB Certifications in Theory of Knowledge, Extended Essay coordination, Economics and Computer Science.
- Full NZ Driver's License

Full education and experience history is available at [linkedin.com/in/davidlawrencerussell](https://www.linkedin.com/in/davidlawrencerussell) or on request.
References available upon request.