

# Dr Maria Evans

[www.mariaevans.com](http://www.mariaevans.com)

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/maria-evans-phd/>

[mariaevalid@gmail.com](mailto:mariaevalid@gmail.com)

07887 536019

<b>Introduction:</b>	I design & deliver effective training & coaching to improve staff development, retention & well-being. Specialism in DEI, particularly neurodivergence & supporting women in leadership. Accredited coach. Mentor. Speaker	
<b>Brief overview of career:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consultant, Researcher, Trainer and Coach, Head-Line Communication Ltd</li><li>• Business Mentorship Programme Lead, The Portfolio Collective</li><li>• Teachers' Programme Developer, Royal Shakespeare Company</li><li>• Senior Grants Manager, Paul Hamlyn Foundation</li><li>• ESRC funded doctoral researcher, University of Warwick</li><li>• Director of Education, Royal Shakespeare Company</li></ul>	
<b>Summary of chief skills, knowledge and expertise:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Coaching and mentoring for all stages of careers, including leadership;</li><li>• Creation, management and delivery of an extensive range of professional development events and courses, within the UK, internationally, and online;</li><li>• Expertise in creating safe, inclusive, respectful environments to support people of all ages and abilities in workshops and coaching contexts;</li><li>• Experience as a public speaker and panellist in a wide variety of events and conferences, nationally, internationally and online;</li><li>• Significant experience of supporting digital learning opportunities; and</li><li>• Senior strategic, operational and team leadership within a large-scale national organisation.</li></ul>	
<b>Most recent employment: 2008 to present</b>	<b>Consultant, Researcher, Trainer and Coach, Head-Line Communication Ltd</b> I have worked part-time as director of my own company since 2008, and full-time since 2018. The following provides a snapshot of contracts and initiatives that I have led: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Developing and delivering long-term evaluation, alongside providing strategy support for the Education &amp; Community Department of The Old Vic (2021-present);</li><li>• Project managing a business mentoring programme for The Portfolio Collective (2022-2023);</li><li>• Delivering coaching and mentoring in both one-to-one and group settings (2008-present);</li><li>• Initiating and leading in-person and online masterclasses, webinars &amp; training courses (2016-present); and</li><li>• Working as a lead researcher on short and longitudinal studies (2017-present).</li></ul>	
<b>Previous employment and research:</b>	<b>2016-2018</b>	<b>Teachers' Programme Developer, Royal Shakespeare Company</b> My role focused on the strategy, design and management of the RSC's professional development programme for primary and secondary schools, including delivery of work and conferences nationally and internationally.
	<b>2015-2016</b>	<b>Senior Grants Manager, Paul Hamlyn Foundation</b> My role was to lead on the development and implementation of PHF's UK-wide strategy for supporting education and learning through the arts. I had responsibility for two funds with an annual distribution of £3million.
	<b>2012-2017</b>	<b>Economic and Social Research Council funded doctoral researcher, University of Warwick</b> As part of my PhD I analysed the lived experiences of English teachers who taught Shakespeare in secondary schools.
	<b>2004-2008</b>	<b>Director of Education, Royal Shakespeare Company</b> As a member of the SLT, and Director of the Education Department, I <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• established and led a new and ambitious national and international strategy for the RSC's education and exhibitions work;</li><li>• oversaw a change management programme within the education department;</li><li>• initiated the RSC's ground-breaking Learning and Performance</li></ul>

		<p>Network;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>led a national and international consultation on successful ways of teaching Shakespeare; and</li> <li>played a significant role in a partnership with the University of Warwick, which led to a successful HEFCE bid to create a cultural Centre of Excellence.</li> </ul>
	<b>2001-2004</b>	<p><b>Executive Director, arts4 (formerly arts4schools)</b></p> <p>I established my own company, providing leadership, information and support for those working in the arts or education. Key projects included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>delivery of a creative science programme for science teachers, commissioned by The Wellcome Trust and the DfES (2003-4); and</li> <li>setting up and running the Inspiring Tomorrow's Audiences' conference (2003), the UK's first conference on digital and online arts educational resources for schools.</li> </ul>
	<b>1987-2001</b>	<p>In my earlier career I worked for BBC Radio Drama as a Production Assistant; Cheek by Jowl as Assistant Administrator; Widnes Sixth Form College as Head of Drama/Theatre Studies; RSC as Education Manager; Chartered Institute of Management Accountants as Student Support Manager.</p>
<b>Summary of key qualifications, fellowships and training:</b>	<p><b>2024</b> <b>2017</b> <b>2008</b> <b>2007</b> <b>2005-10</b> <b>2003</b> <b>1993-94</b> <b>1991-93</b> <b>1983-86</b></p>	<p><b>Advanced Certificate in Neurodiversity Coaching</b></p> <p><b>PhD in Arts Education</b>, University of Warwick</p> <p><b>Accredited Coach</b>, Performance Coach Ltd</p> <p><b>Clore Leadership Short Course</b></p> <p><b>Associate Fellow</b>, the University of Warwick's CAPITAL centre</p> <p><b>Diploma in Women in Management (Distinction)</b>, Birkbeck College</p> <p><b>PGCE: Drama and English (Distinction)</b>, University of Leeds</p> <p><b>MA: Arts Management in Education</b>, City University, London</p> <p><b>BA: Drama and Latin</b>, University College of North Wales</p>
<b>Voluntary roles:</b>	<p><b>2022-</b> <b>2017-8</b> <b>2003-16</b></p>	<p><b>Trustee, The Arvon Foundation</b></p> <p><b>Trustee, Pegasus Theatre, Oxford</b></p> <p><b>Various school governance roles</b></p>
<b>References:</b>		Contact details available on request