Distinctiveness: Lessons from The Cathedrals Group project

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Who are The Cathedrals Group?

Bishop Grosseteste University College
Canterbury Christ Church University
Leeds Trinity University College
Liverpool Hope University
Newman University College
Roehampton University
St Mary's University College
The University College Plymouth St Mark and St John
University of Chester
University of Chichester
University of Cumbria
University of Gloucestershire
University of Winchester
York St John University
Trinity Saint David University
• 15 HEIs in England and Wales with Church foundations
• Teacher education, professional training for public sector and health professions
• Commitment to social justice and promoting common good through work with communities and charities
• Welcome equally those of faith and no faith
• Collaborative projects (Article 26 and TLA)
We looked at:

- Staff and Student Experience
- Community Engagement
- Impact on Social Cohesion
- Cultural Relevance
We spoke to

VCs & Principals

Steering Group

Visits – Senior Management, Staff, Students, Chaplains, Council Chairs

Stakeholders
Key Findings

- Handling of change
- Developing individuals in the round
- Lived out values
- Selecting external partnerships
- Strong sense of community - internal and external
- Key role of Chaplains
So what have we learnt about distinctiveness and identity more widely?
5 Key Lessons

Memorable Pecha Kucha acronym!

- Narrative
- Place
- Values
- Community
- Clusters
How do you score on distinctiveness?

The 5:3:2:1:1 challenge for today
Project outcomes

• **Within individual institutions** -
  Review by Governing body, Committees
  Away-days for staff teams, Students’ Union, Chaplaincy

• **Within Cathedrals Group** -
  Executive group and All-member discussion

• **Addressing individual challenges**

• **Shaping future direction**
Thank you for listening