

## Barry Phipps, Assistant Head- Participant of PTC Leadership 2019



“So I’m a good guy to go first because I’m setting the bar easy for everyone else following. I don’t want to wear this just yet because I do want to say I live in India and I’ve lived there for four years and James just asked me, well what do I think of living in India? Well, it’s great, you’ve either got to either, hate it or you love it or you embrace it cause I don’t really know whether you’re in love in the air because there’s a lot of stuff. Sometimes you love it. Sometimes I hate it. Embrace it. So I work at a school that has vegetarian options, Indian options every day. I hop on the plane to come to here, went through Abu Dhabi and it was chicken Cowdery on the plane. I went from Abu Dhabi to Heathrow. I’ve got lamb Curry. I came here last night was great. They had an Indian banquet. Um, I looked up and I said, Oh, I’m going to go and see what options are around here for non-Indian food. Well, there are eight Indian options.

Daily Kitchen, Rupees Grill, the Royal Tandoori, and Red Jeeves all Indian. Just, some of them actually. So if anybody wants to come and have fish and chips at the pub tonight, I am going to go there at six o’clock cause I do not want to eat Indian. That’s got nothing to do with my pearl. My Pearl has really got two things to it and, Bambi said that we have to have something about leadership. Well, mine is sort of more about, you know, looking after ourselves and, remembering your journey. And there’s two things that I want to talk about. One is about a book which I sort of talked about quite often because I like it.

And um, and the other one is one I used to talk to kids about. When I was a college counselor in a previous life and as a college counselor in a previous life, I would deal with kids who think that they know where they want to go and they say, Oh my gosh, I want to go to Harvard or I want to go to Yale or I want to go to whatever college they want to go too. And then like putting in the applications and they’re thinking all the time about their applications. They’re writing the essays and the doing all this stuff and they think the world is going to happen if they go to that university and then life comes crashing down because they didn’t get into their dream university because they have their life plan. I used to say to them, you have 24 hours to sulk.

Do you want to go to slam doors and throw a tantrum at Dolby or something? Do that for 24 hours. It is the 24 hour rule and not say that to the parents, working in India. At a school where, your previous school was that had a 40 IB average. So everyone was always trying to get into the best universities. Some are not going to get into any of them, but they think that their lives are going to be destroyed. They did. So 24 hour rule to not only the kids but the parents and we as leaders and you're all here thinking, huh, maybe I want to be a head of school. Maybe I want to be a deputy head of school. Maybe I want to be a leader in some case. And we're all striving to get to something. But you forget about today and when you go to that interview and we're all trying for them.

And I've got friends here that are worked in schools that I went for interviews with a panel of 13, and I remember that interview because I did some bad work it was a very bad panel. And things change and you just don't know what life's got in store for you and you forget as you're going along the today stuff. And that brings me to the book. And hopefully this will relate when I get to the end of the book, it is The five people you meet in heaven. But this book. It has been in my head for years and years and years because it's about random connections that would change our lives and we don't know when that happens and the premise of the story is that a guy dies in the first chapter from, I wont tell you the end, they tell us in the first chapter that he dies.

He goes to heaven, whatever. There are five people who are waiting there to say your life mattered and you didn't know but you made a difference to me and every single part has a story like this. Whether your playing the defense or somebody else. I don't know. I listened to [Song Name] one day I hope when I go to heaven I'm going to give him a line to the guy who wrote that song and I'm going to say, that guy, doesn't know how he's changed my life, that ridiculous song. After 10 or 15 years of being estranged from my father, I listened. Oh gosh. Now I'm getting emotional. I shouldn't have told this. I listened to that song and if you hadn't listened to that song on your own and with your dad, listen to it.

I reconnected with my father and my life changed because of that song and I can't believe I'm standing up here getting emotional and them. That didn't mean that I'm sorry, but don't forget today as you're striving for tomorrow, don't forget the impact that you have on the people around you. We all have the stories. I was talking to some people yesterday. about students who you connect with through the work or a parent you



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connect to or a colleague that something you said today will change the weight on their life later on. So the 24 hour rule, if things don't go your way, it's not a real way because maybe you're not meant to go in that direction. Maybe it's the other direction. The other tool that opens makes you change.”