

## **Review of Jamies School Dinners: managing and living with change**

Format: Available on DVD and video.

Publisher Video Arts Ltd, 6-7 St Cross Street, London, EC1N 8UA

Website: [www.videoarts.com](http://www.videoarts.com)

Price DVD - £1299.00 Video - £1099.00 Full-length preview - £40  
(refundable when you purchase programme)

Innovation: 3 stars

Content – 3 stars

Clarity – 4 stars

Recommendation – 3 stars

Value for money - 2 stars

The target audience for this package is managers and team leaders who are involved with change. The set might also form a basis for a training team to design a more sophisticated programme using the resources as their starting point.

The nicely packaged set contains

- 2 DVDs:
  - Part 1 Managing Change (26 mins),
  - Part 2 Living with Change (19 mins).
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- And customizable support materials provided on disc and hard copy
  - Course leader's guide with 90 minute, half-day, full-day and self-study courses
  - Group training workbook
  - Self-study workbook
  - PowerPoint presentation slides

The DVDs consist of selected highlights from the recent TV series Jamie's School Dinners with a customised narration to provide the structure. The DVDs are entertaining to watch and provide some good examples of the effects of change on everyone who was involved. The content was very accessible, though fairly basic, describing the stages people go through when experiencing change and what to watch out for when managing change.

The detailed programme notes are generally extremely detailed providing instructions like "Explain that in a moment you are going to show them the video" but then occasionally leave a potential void with a phrase like "Lead a discussion of their examples." My feeling was that if I needed such thorough notes I might also want a bit more support in leading a discussion.

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My disappointment with the support materials is that they create a contrast with the sophistication of a DVD. The workbooks are black and white with no pictures or visual links back to the programme and the PowerPoint presentations are very stark black and red, with a few bullet points. Some clips or pictures from the DVD would have helped bring them to life and make them more appealing.

Having previously watched videos that have been specifically designed for training I wondered about the possible impact on learning of using a well known TV series.

- What differences would it make between those who had seen the series and those who hadn't?
- Would people's enjoyment of the series and subject matter (or not) have any effect?
- What would be the longevity of the DVDs – once the TV series becomes last years' news would it seem outdated?

The materials provide the resources to run some straightforward programmes on handling and managing change and would be suitable for leading initial discussions with a range of people who had not explored the topic before.

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