



## LIAM BLACK

Business founder, social entrepreneur, mentor, connector, investor, speaker and writer.

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I operate in an eco-system that stretches from the rural areas of Bangladesh to the heart of Silicon Valley.

My passions are family, entrepreneurship, authentic leadership and developing creativity and innovation. My strengths are my networks, hard won leadership, business insight, straight talking and knowing when to leave.

## LEADERSHIP HISTORY

### » **Wavelength Companies Ltd**

**Co-founder and Chief Encouragement Officer**

January 2008 – January 2018

Wavelength is a successful boutique senior leadership executive development business which runs programmes, study tours and public events in Europe, the US and Asia. Our client and partner list includes Dyson, the BBC, Lego, IKEA, Pret, Warner Bros, Guardian Media Group, Jaguar Land Rover, Aravind Eye Care, the Eden Project, Andreessen Horowitz, Silicon Valley Bank, RocketSpace and Tesla. As a co-owner, I have been involved in all aspects of the business with full P&L responsibility, product design, marketing, sales, PR and communications, event hosting and facilitation.

### » **The Jamie Oliver Group**

**CEO of Fifteen Foundation**

July 2004 – January 2008

I was responsible with Jamie for growing the brand and our operations in London, Cornwall, Melbourne and Amsterdam with full P&L responsibility for the business, managing the franchise network, measuring and improving our impact and acting as spokesperson to the media.

### » **The FRC Group**

**Chairman and CEO**

January 1993 – June 2004

FRC was active in furniture manufacturing, retail, logistics and recycling across the north of England, based in Liverpool. We offered training, support and jobs to hundreds of unemployed and formerly homeless people and furnished tens of thousands of homes. I created a number of businesses including Bulky Bob's (a waste recycling service in partnership with Liverpool City Council); Revive (a retail brand); the Cat's Pyjamas (a consultancy and events business in the UK, US and South Africa).

## EXEC & NON-EXEC POSITIONS

I am the executive chairman of Big White Wall, an online platform for people living with anxiety and depression. We offer support and therapy to people across the world 24/7 – every day of the year. I helped create and sit on the Investment Committees and Advisory Boards of Impact Ventures UK, a £40 million ten-year capital growth fund, and Centrica Innovations, a £100 million fund. Both funds back start-up and scale-up tech entrepreneurs.

## MENTORING

I work with business leaders and entrepreneurs across a range of industries including media, retail, manufacturing and social enterprise and help them get to clarity, conviction and courage.

## SPEAKING

I enjoy sharing my insights and prejudices with audiences large and small. I'm often invited to talk about how hard pressed leaders can come to terms with the relentless demand for change and innovation at a time when just keeping the show on the road feels like a huge challenge. This is a selection of my audiences over the last twelve months:

### » **TD Bank (Toronto):**

Audience of 300 on leading in uncertain times.

### » **Eden project (Cornwall):**

Audience of 100 at entrepreneur awards ceremony.

### » **Royal Mail (London):**

Audience of 250 on culture change.

### » **A & E Networks (London):**

Audience of 200 on leading in a digital age.

### » **Johnson & Johnson (Milan):**

Audience of 150 on leading change.