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Chris Hirst

Global CEO, Havas Creative Network

Chris was appointed Global CEO of Havas Creative in 2019. He leads over 8,000 people in Havas Villages around the world.

He is responsible for rolling out Havas' integrated agency model offering multi-disciplinary expertise under one roof. Thanks to his leadership at Havas UK, the Group now has an unrivalled and well-established breadth and depth of capability under one brand and in a single location in London's Kings Cross - making it one of the most exciting and talked about communications businesses in the market.

Chris studied Engineering at Brasenose College, Oxford. After an apprenticeship at Pilkington Glass in St. Helens he embarked on (an unlikely) career in advertising.

After a decade establishing his ability in outstanding account management, Chris went to Harvard Business School where he developed his unique and now proven, approach to leadership.

He believes in the principles of an open culture – where people are given permission to thrive and take risks - accepting that mistakes are a necessary part of success. He is actively engaged in broadening the appeal of the advertising industry and sees diversity and social mobility as key factors in the future health of the creative industries.

His bestselling debut book, *'No Bullshit Leadership: Why The World Needs More Leaders And Why That Leader Is You'* was published by Profile books in 2019 and was named Business Book of the Year in March 2020. He is also the host of the No Bullshit Leadership podcast created in partnership with Intelligence Squared.

Chris is an executive board member at Vivendi and a trustee of the MOBO Foundation as well as a regular speaker at industry events and commentator in national press including BBC News, ITV News, The Politics Show, Evening Standard, FT and Sky News.