

# Taskforce NEWS

The newsletter of the Education and Employers Taskforce

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Education  
AND  
Employers  
TASKFORCE



## News

### Visit our Schools and Colleges campaign calls for action

The 13 July saw the public launch of the Taskforce's Visit our Schools and Colleges campaign. This is the first national campaign for CEOs and other decision makers from public, private and third sector employers to visit state schools and colleges. The week takes place during the week of the 18 – 22 October 2010.

Taking part in Visit our Schools week is completely free to everyone and only requires 1 or 2 hours of your time in the week of 18-22 October to visit a school/college in your area or to host a visit. For further details and to register visit:

[www.visitourschools.org](http://www.visitourschools.org) or [www.visitourcolleges.org](http://www.visitourcolleges.org) To take part register online by 31 September.

This 'call to action' is a chance for bosses from organisations of all sizes and sectors to hear first-hand from head teachers and young people about they can actively help shape their motivation, skills, achievement and employability.

Leaders from the worlds of education and business have united behind this unique campaign. What they are saying.....

"Engaging directly with schools and colleges is one of the most effective ways in which employers can help shape education today to meet the skills needs of tomorrow. The IoD is fully behind this campaign." Miles Templeman, Director General of the Institute of Directors

"Employers and schools working in partnership can enhance the learning experience of children and young people. The Visit our Schools and Colleges campaign is a great opportunity to bring together business leaders with teachers and pupils. Mutual support, co-operation and understanding between business leaders and schools will help to continue to ensure that young people have the knowledge and skills which they need for a successful adult life." Chris Keates, General Secretary of the NASUWT, the largest teachers' union

## EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Announcing the first Taskforce research conference

This October sees the inaugural Education and Employers Taskforce Research Conference 2010, which is entitled "The point of partnership: understanding employer engagement in education". The conference brings together researchers from a wide range of disciplines to explore questions of direct relevance to Taskforce partners.

Speakers include some of the UK and Europe's leading academics including Professor Hugh Lauder (University of Bath), editor of the Journal of Education and Work; Professor Prue Huddleston (Warwick), Professor Ewart Keep (Cardiff); Professor Jeremy Higham (Leeds); Professor Louise Archer (King's College), Professor William Richardson (Exeter), Professor Chris James (Bath) and researchers from the Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB) in Germany. It will be held at the University of Warwick on 15 October 2010.

The Taskforce is an independent charity and because we have been successful in attracting sponsorship to support the event the Conference fees are just £80, and £20 for the unwaged, including postgraduate students.

**Visit:**

<http://www.educationandemployers.org/research/taskforce-research-conference-2010>

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### Media interest in Visit our Schools and Colleges

Visit our Schools and Colleges media activity has generated extensive interest in the business and education specialist press, national and regional newspapers, and also radio. There may be coverage that we are not aware of so please alert us to coverage that you spot and also any media opportunities in your region that we should follow up. Please contact: [carol.glover@educationandemployers.org](mailto:carol.glover@educationandemployers.org) and mob: 07939 061 850

### A big thank you to IEBE and its members

The Taskforce is especially grateful to IEBE ([www.iebe.org.uk](http://www.iebe.org.uk)) for its support for Visit our Schools and Colleges week. Scores of IEBE members have volunteered to help match up schools and employers locally to ensure the success of Visit our Schools week. IEBE members will confirm details of local visits and help participants to understand the breadth of support there is to help make partnership easy.

### Governors Mean Business research published

The new School Governors One-Stop Shop (SGOSS) and University of Hertfordshire research report - Governors Mean Business; School Governors' One-Stop Shop volunteers: their contribution and added value to schools in England - shows the ways in which Governors are valued by head teachers and schools. These include challenging and holding the leadership to account, monitoring, evaluation and getting to know the areas of school life in need of development.

For the full report [click here](#)

### New Book: Urban Youth and Education

The new book by King's College professor and Taskforce Research Group member Louise Archer, addresses the educational disengagement of urban, working-class young people, exploring the effectiveness of schools and education policies. Raising themes of the relevance of learning to future employment and the complexity of understanding career aspiration in deprived neighbourhoods, the work provides an accessible and thought-provoking analysis of interest to many working in the field of work-related learning and employer engagement in education.

**Urban Youth and Education** by Louise Archer, Heather Mendick and Sumi Hollingworth (Open University Press, 2010).

### Volunteering in education offers significant financial benefits for business

The City of London Corporation has published a landmark report detailing the skills and competencies developed by employees involved in corporate volunteering schemes as well as the financial value accrued by businesses running such schemes.

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### 2010 National Work Experience Conference

The Making Work-related Learning Work conference takes place 22 - 23 November at the University of Warwick near Coventry.

Making Work-related Learning Work will be the 15th national conference for organisers of work experience and work-related learning. The focus this year is on improving work-related learning – through sharing best practice, through research, through skills development and through innovation. The conference provides opportunities for professional development, networking, updating and reflection. The event includes practical workshops and seminars where participants can find out about practice directly from innovators, experts, employers and learners.

For details visit:

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/cei/conference/>

### Governor Information Evening

School Governors' One-Stop Shop (SGOSS) is inviting head teachers and governors to come to a Governor Information Evening. Guest speakers will be presenting on current educational and governor issues and it is an opportunity to learn how to recruit skilled governors to your governing body. The event will be held on 23 November at Harlequins RFC, Twickenham.

For more information or to register as an attendee at this free event please contact Alison Young [alison.young@sgoss.org.uk](mailto:alison.young@sgoss.org.uk) or call 0207 288 9542.

### Partner News: IEBE wins an international award

The Institute for Education Business Excellence (IEBE) has won an international award at the International Partnership Conference, held in Toronto 25 -28 April 2010.

Created in England in 2009, the IEBE is the first body of its type in the world. It

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Commissioned by the City of London Corporation and produced by Corporate Citizenship, the report – **'Volunteering: the Business Case'** – tracks the learning and development of 546 employees from 16 major City firms volunteering in schools and colleges across the UK.

Key findings include strong evidence of positive impact on key competencies related to personal effectiveness in the workplace: communication, adaptability and influencing/negotiating skills honed in unfamiliar environments. Different activities, such as mentoring or being a governor, develop different skills, all of value to employers, and routinely featuring in mainstream competency frameworks. The report offers a tool for employers to optimise competency development and to use volunteering as an integral part of staff development.

To read the full report visit: **'Volunteering - the business case'**

### Employers are the key to employability, says CBI

The demand for skilled people will intensify during the recovery, and employers' top recruitment priorities are employability skills such as problem solving and team working, above exam results, a new survey reveals. The CBI believes that business has a key role to play in the education system, and highlights specific shortages in young people with STEM and languages skills.

The new CBI report, called *Ready to grow: business priorities for education and skills*, is sponsored by leading qualifications awarding body EDI. The survey was answered by 694 employers, which together employ over 2.4 million people and represent companies of all sizes and sectors.

The report says that business involvement with schools can be a powerful catalyst to increased academic achievement. It can also enable young people to make better-informed decisions at the key transition points in their education, and help them develop the employability skills needed.

For the full report visit: **Ready to grow: business priorities for education and skills**

### Young people want greater access to business

Improving school career services and increasing young people's access to business would improve their job chances, argues a new report from Edge Learner Forum, Media Trust and National Youth Agency. 77% of young people believe that their future careers would be greatly improved by more involvement with business, with 49% declaring that current opportunities to get involved with business that are provided through the school system are inadequate. Some felt that the work experience they are offered is often 'wasted opportunity'.

The survey, conducted with over 4000 young people, found many respondents concluding that their work experience placements were often poorly matched with their personal interests and therefore less relevant to their career development. As a result young people feel they lack opportunities to work and gain experience, while 34% think the ideal age for young people to be involved in business is 11-14. However, most young people's first experience of involvement with business currently occurs around age 15-16. There was also a feeling that businesses tended to undervalue volunteers or young people on work experience.

There is some good news, 67% of young people have a positive experience with business. These tended to occur when young people were given real responsibility and tasks that were genuinely beneficial to the business. Being able to talk directly with business people was also seen as especially useful. For the full report visit:

[www.edge.co.uk](http://www.edge.co.uk)

sets the quality standard for organisations and individuals who wish to demonstrate excellence in bringing together education and business. On receiving the Award, which was given for "Building a Learning Community", IEBE's Chief Executive Declan Swan said: "The competition for this award was very strong, and so I am particularly proud to accept it on behalf of the excellent education business partnership work that takes place in England". **Visit:** <http://www.iebe.org.uk/>



## A European vision for employer engagement in education

In March, the European Commission published Europe 2020: A European strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth **Click here to read the report**. A successor to the Lisbon strategy, Europe 2020 commits the EU to build links between education and business and a key means of strengthening knowledge and innovation as drivers of future growth. A EU sponsored conference in Brussels in March helped shine a light on what this commitment might mean in practice. The event brought together policy experts and practitioners from across the EU to highlight and explore and share best practice in school-business partnership across Europe, and “to identify ways in which the EU can support the development of high-quality school-business initiatives in the future.”

For a full report **click here**

One of the key innovations expected is the launch of a Europe wide Observatory to gather, share and drive effective practice in strengthening the links between employers and education. To keep up to speed on these European developments, visit the news pages of the **Taskforce website**.

## European Entrepreneurship Education report unveiled

Previously, the EU has encouraged links between business and schools with relation to enterprise and STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) activities. The Enterprise Education Unconference took place in Spain in May. The event was designed to help create a community of people dealing with enterprise education at European level and explore the possibilities provided by the European Social Fund for enterprise education projects. The final report includes:

- Findings on the current state of play in entrepreneurship education, especially in relation to the development of entrepreneurship education strategies and their implementation
- A 'cook book' of good practices showing how to address key areas

The final report and evaluation of the pilot High Level Reflection Panels on Entrepreneurship Education has been published **here**

## New joiners to the Taskforce

Two new organisations are joining the Education and Employers Taskforce Partnership Board ([www.educationandemployers.org/who-we-are/the-partnership-board](http://www.educationandemployers.org/who-we-are/the-partnership-board)), the Director General of City and Guilds ([www.cityandguilds.com](http://www.cityandguilds.com)) and the CEO of the National Governors Association ([www.nga.org.uk](http://www.nga.org.uk)) will join the board from the autumn. We welcome the expertise of these important key organisations.



## The Diploma: key announcements

First taught in 2008, the Diploma is a qualification which draws heavily on employer engagement to support teaching that combines theoretical and practical approaches in a new and engaging learning style. The current environment for Diplomas is less hospitable than it was. However, their position as a viable qualification is not in question, and as minister Nick Gibb said in the Department for Education press release of 24 June, 'that does not mean young people presently studying for a Diploma, or who plan to start one in the future, should think again, I want to reassure them'. Over recent weeks the Secretary of State, Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, and the Minister of State for Schools, Nick Gibb MP, have made a number of important policy announcements about the Diplomas. These are summarised below:

### Vision for schools

The Government's education policies are guided by three principles: freedom, responsibility and fairness. Nick Gibb, Minister of State for Schools, said on 2 July 'To give every child the best education, regardless of their background or their parent's income, we need to refocus the curriculum on core knowledge and content, reduce bureaucracy in schools so teachers can get on with teaching, and continue to offer parents more choice with the expansion of academies and the free school programme'. Read the speech [here](#).

### Diploma Entitlement not being introduced

Schools and colleges will be allowed to choose how many, and which, Diploma lines of learning they offer. The Diploma Entitlement will therefore not be introduced. Removing the entitlement means that provision of the Diploma will be left to local areas to decide through balancing capacity and demand. The press release can be found [here](#) and Nick Gibb's speech is available [here](#).

### Diploma Development Partnerships (DDPs) to cease activity

Funding for DDPs is to be removed and their work stopped. Phase 4 DDPs finished work at the end of June. Phase 1-3 DDPs will wind down and cease activity by the end of September.

### Phase 4 Diplomas not being introduced

On 7 June the Secretary of State also announced that he was stopping the Phase 4 Diplomas. All development on the Diploma lines in sciences, languages and humanities stopped with immediate effect.

### Extended Diplomas stopped

Development of the Extended Diploma is to be stopped. Mr Gibb said "We are stopping the development of the Extended Diploma because it would be an unnecessary burden on schools and colleges, with no clear benefit for young people, who already have the flexibility to take additional qualifications alongside their Diploma."

### QCDA to be abolished

Over the last ten years, the Qualifications, Curriculum and Development Agency has played a central role in helping schools to deliver the statutory requirement to work-related learning and careers advice.

The  
Diploma  
Employer Champions Network

