

Taskforce NEWS

The newsletter of the Education and Employers Taskforce

MARCH 2010 | ISSUE 2



Education
AND Employers
TASKFORCE



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“Visit our schools” campaign

The Taskforce and its partners are planning a major campaign with the aim of encouraging leading CEOs from the private and public sectors, at the invitation of head teachers, to “visit our schools” during the period of a week. It will be a chance for decision-makers from the private and public sectors to hear from headteachers and young people about the work of schools, and to witness that work at first hand. It will showcase the great work being done by employers and schools. The campaign will facilitate structured discussions and explore practical ways in which we might work together to ensure that our education system meets the needs of young people and their future employers.

The campaign is still at the formative stage and a steering group is being formed consisting of many of the Taskforce partners. If you are interested in being involved please contact: carol.glover@educationandemployers.org

Education and employers working together - Celebrating The Best in Britain

As part of its autumn campaign the Taskforce is intending to publicise and celebrate the great examples of schools and colleges working in partnership with employers. We are looking for examples from all types of schools and colleges from around Britain. If you know of schools in your area which should be approached to be included let us know by contacting: carol.glover@educationandemployers.org

What is to be gained through partnership? New Taskforce report explains all

Now available on the Taskforce website is a new report developed by the Taskforce Group on Research that takes stock of ten years of research into the benefits of

Forthcoming events

The point of partnership: understanding employer engagement in education

This academic conference will take place on 15 October 2010 at the University of Warwick. The keynote speaker will be Professor Hugh Lauder, University of Bath, editor of the Journal of Education and Work. This, the inaugural Education and Employers Taskforce academic conference, will be an unprecedented opportunity for academics, policy makers and practitioners to hear from leading scholars interested in all aspects of partnership activity between schools/colleges and employers. More information visit: www.educationandemployers.org/research.aspx

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collaboration between schools and colleges and employers. Considering the range of potential benefits for young people, school leaders and to employers, the report pulls together compelling evidence of impact.

Visit: www.educationandemployers.org/research.aspx

SSAT and the Taskforce collaborate on guidance for teachers

An event at the London Guildhall saw the launch of *Creating effective partnerships with employers: guidance for teachers*. Produced by the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (SSAT) in collaboration with the Education and Employers Taskforce, the publication identifies the key characteristics of successful employer engagement, presenting case studies and suggested strategies to encourage schools to create their own effective partnerships with employers.

For further information click [here](#):

Guidance for commissioners of evaluation of education-employer initiatives

This draws upon the advice and guidance of members of the Taskforce Expert Group on Research that have participated in commissioning, and undertaking, evaluations of programmes and activities. It is a guide that is especially relevant to organisations that fund projects designed to improve the educational experience of young people, aged 5 to 19, through initiatives that engage employers and employees, from private, public or third sector organisations. In doing so, it draws upon the Taskforce's definition of effective partnership - that the sum of the best collaborations will provide support for schools and colleges.

[Read the full report here \(pdf\)](#)

New evidence of 'why it matters' published

Also published on the Taskforce website in February were four research papers which collectively provide significant new data on the value of partnerships between employers and schools and colleges.

You Gov research findings

The **EDGE Annual Programme of Stakeholder Research: Business in Schools** published in January 2010 found that many teachers did not think there were not enough opportunities for children to experience the workplace; 51% had this view, while only 28% thought there were enough opportunities. Teachers were likely to think that there was insufficient employer engagement in their school. Employers did not feel well informed about opportunities to engage with school. Two thirds felt that their organisation was on balance not well informed. Employers remained generally positive about engaging with the education sector.

To read the full research report visit: www.educationandemployers.org/research.aspx

Forthcoming events

Taskforce welcomes 10th International Education and Business Partnership Conference, Canada

The 10th International Education Business Partnership Conference program focuses strongly on the increasing interaction between corporate social investment strategies, communities and learning partnership systems and programs in many countries. The common ground between schools, communities and business is becoming better defined as economies and societies become more knowledge-based and business becomes more aware of the need to be learning organisations.

The conference will be held 25 – 28 April 2010 in Toronto, Canada.

Visit:

www.conferenceboard.ca/topics/education/symposia/partnership/conference



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Work experience vs. part-time employment

Also published February is a rare public analysis of the impact of work experience and part-time work on young people drawing on data from large scale longitudinal studies.

Read the full report here (pdf)

Measuring the impact of work experience

IEBE's 2008 survey of 15,000 young people who had recently completed work experience shows that pupils overwhelmingly value their work placements and see them as having positive impacts on their motivation to learn at school. **IEBE DCSF work experience impact measures report** - the full report (pdf)

B-live's survey of the careers aspirations of young people highlights a disjuncture between job goals and labour market realities. **Cool Careers Culture Widens the UK's Skills Gap** - the full report (pdf)

What is the role of employers in providing young people with information, advice and guidance on careers?

Deloitte is leading a review for the Taskforce into the role of employers in Careers Advice Information and Guidance. The work will consider existing research evidence, interviews with a wide range of stakeholders and surveys of employers, schools and young people. More details in the next issue of Taskforce News.

KPMG looks at employer engagement in schools

KPMG is carrying out qualitative and quantitative research to understand the current state of employer engagement in (primary and secondary) schools. The aim is to map the nature and provision of these school-employer partnerships, to note good practice as reported, and to enquire about the blockers and enablers to allow the partnerships being developed to be more successful.

Update in the next issue of Taskforce News.

New on the Employers' Guide and Teachers' Guides

There are new case studies on the Employers' Guide from Natural England and the Forestry Commission. Both are involved in the Diploma in Environmental and Land Based Studies. New case studies on the Teachers' Guide include Fosse Way Special School and Ashfield Community Comprehensive. Visit: **www.employers-guide.org** and **www.teachers-guide.org**

Consultation on the Advanced Diploma in Science

The consultation on the Advanced Diploma in Science, which will include focus groups and an online consultation, will run from February 2010 until 4 May 2010. It provides people with the chance to share their views on the draft statement and criteria for the advanced Diploma in science. The findings will inform the final documents that



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awarding bodies will use to create principal learning qualification specifications. Registration for the events started in February so please sign up via the science DDP website [here](#)

VQ Day

The third annual VQ Day is on 23 June 2010 and the website is now live at www.vqday.org. The website includes the VQ Day Action Pack, nomination forms for the VQ Day Learner of the Year Awards and details on how to promote your involvement in the big day. Posters and leaflets are also available to order for free.

Last year 3.6 million vocational qualifications were awarded and millions of people will achieve similar success this year. In 2010, VQ Day will have a particular focus on progression, specifically the benefits which gaining a vocational qualification can bring in terms of career advancement and facilitating further study.

Teaching Award winning science teacher honoured by the Royal Society

National Science and Engineering Week took place between 12-21 March. Science teacher Caroline Molyneux is one of ten 'heroes' who has received a special award from the Royal Society to help mark its 350th anniversary. Caroline is a microbiologist and head of science at Balshaws CE High School, Lancashire, which has an engineering specialism. Among Caroline's achievements are the encouragement of separate sciences at GCSE; 75 students – one third of the cohort in Year 10 – now take the three.

Improvement strategy survey – your input welcome

The 157 Group, Association of Learning Providers (ALP) and the Association of Colleges (AoC), are developing a sector-led improvement and support strategy for employer engagement that can respond to the real, identified needs of colleges and independent training providers. Your feedback to this short survey is vital - it will feed directly into the development of the future improvement strategy. The group are working to develop this strategy with LSN, and undertake this review through its think tank – the Centre for Innovation in Learning. If you would like to be part of the survey or find out more details please contact Sarah Gracey at the Centre for Innovation in Learning at sgracey@lsnlearning.org.uk



Diploma Employer Champions Network News

Diploma Employer Champions Network E-bulletin available

The latest Diploma Employer Champions Network E-bulletin is available featuring Will-Butler Adams, MD of Brompton Bicycle, the iconic British folding bicycle company and Tony Wray CEO of Severn Trent Water. The February 2010 Diploma Employer Champions Network E-bulletin is now available, please visit: www.Feb_E-Bulletin

Diploma TV media campaign

January saw new Diploma adverts on television, showcasing how real Diploma students were involved in developing a new single and music video for British pop star Kano. In the advert, we see Kano on the set of his new video where filming has just finished. The camera follows Kano as he goes around thanking all the people who helped make it happen, many of them Diploma students. He thanks the Business Administration and Finance students in the management team, the Construction and the Built environment and Engineering students for their help with designing the set and the Creative and media students for their work behind the camera.

Online solution to finding local Diploma schools and colleges

A new online tool has been launched which enables interested employers and other parties to contact Diploma schools and colleges. It is possible to search by local authority to identify which establishments are planning to teach which Diploma courses, and from which year.

Fourteen Diploma subjects will be available from September 2010. New courses beginning in September are Public Services, Retail Business, Sport & Active Leisure and Travel & Tourism.

Visit the **website**

Business leaders support the Diplomas

Over 60 business leaders wrote a joint letter to The Guardian in January keen to feed into the debate on the value of education in support of Diploma and education-employer engagement. Signatures included Clive Jones CBE, Chair of GMTV, Phil Bentley, Managing Director of British Gas and James Wates, Deputy Chairman of Wates Construction, plus employers from public, private and third sector organisations and different industries across the country.

Delivering Diplomas

The latest issue of Delivering Diplomas magazine is out now. It features case studies covering all aspects of delivery. Please visit: <http://bit.ly/aR6yuG>



The
Diploma
Employer Champions Network

