

# Taskforce NEWS

The newsletter of the Education and Employers Taskforce

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Education  
AND  
Employers



## News

### Campaign to get 100,000 volunteers to Inspire the Future

The Education and Employers Taskforce is launching a campaign called Inspiring the Future which aims to get 100,000 people from all sectors and professions go into schools and colleges to talk about their jobs, careers and the education route they took. The idea is to give young people a practical insight into jobs and careers. The campaign is featured in the Government's social mobility strategy published on 4 April 2011.

The coalition Government's strategy includes getting these employee volunteers into schools and colleges to talk about their jobs. 'Opening Doors, Breaking Barriers' explains how the strategy will be implemented. The Taskforce's Partnership Board and others will develop a national online service to match up schools with individuals willing to volunteer. The Government will lead by example in supporting this initiative. They have set out a commitment to encourage all civil servants to volunteer for at least one working day per year, using special paid leave. **Read the full report here**

To be kept in touch about the launch of the Inspiring the Future:  
**[carol.glover@educationandemployers.org](mailto:carol.glover@educationandemployers.org)**

### £60 million youth jobs package unveiled

The Government has moved to tackle rising youth unemployment by announcing a £60 million package aimed at boosting work prospects and "transforming" vocational education. The Coalition is committed to getting vulnerable youngsters into work by tackling the 'structural barriers' stopping them starting their career. It will provide funding for up to 250,000 more apprenticeships over the next four years, and fund 100,000 work placements over the next two years. **Read the full story**

## Research

### 2011 research conference details announced

Details of the Education and Employers Taskforce research conference 2011 entitled '*Exploring social mobility and delivery mechanisms an international perspective*' are now available on our dedicated conference website. The conference takes place on 12 October 2011. Here you can register online, submit conference papers and view the sponsorship opportunities.

We are pleased to announce that Robert B. Schwartz, Professor of Practice of Educational Policy and Administration, at Harvard Graduate School of Education will be a keynote speaker at the October conference. This is with the kind support of the Pearson Centre for Policy and Learning.

For a full profile **visit here**

Visit our conference website for full details. CfBT Education Trust will create a publication for teachers based on the Taskforce Research Conference papers. Visit **[www.cfbt.com](http://www.cfbt.com)** for more information. **Book now**

A recent Downing Street press release referred to plans to get 100,000 volunteers into education, for the full press release [click here](#).

This follows the Deputy Prime Minister's announcement of the Social Mobility Strategy in April, [visit here](#).

### Evening Standard article by Nick Clegg

[Click here](#)

### Speakers for Schools

The Government's new social mobility strategy also supports the Speakers for Schools initiative.

As part of this campaign the entire cabinet has agreed to take part in Speakers for Schools which aims to bring inspirational speakers, leaders in their field, in to state schools – especially the most disadvantaged - to give talks for free.



Speakers for Schools is the idea of Robert Peston, the BBC's Business Editor, and is being administered by the Taskforce. Speakers will address the big subjects: technological, scientific, political, economic, historical, cultural, artistic, ecological and ethical. Over 300 speakers have accepted invitations to participate including the entire Cabinet, 20 Permanent Secretaries, and leading figures from dozens of top British institutions and companies. The aim is to build a list of 500 speakers before the launch the week of 10 October 2011.

BBC's Huw Edwards visited the Walworth Academy and Robert Peston visited Sheffield Park Academy as part of a series of pilot talks in March.

For Speakers for Schools visit: [www.speakers4schools.org](http://www.speakers4schools.org)

We are grateful to the Association for Financial Markets in Europe (AFME) for their £5,000 sponsorship towards Speakers for Schools.

To find out more about AFME visit: [www.afme.eu](http://www.afme.eu)

### BIS announces the Enterprise Champions Programme 2011

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) announced in March that it will support every school to develop and run its own business through the Enterprise Champions Programme.

The Enterprise Champions Programme will enable schools to set up and manage a business. Schools will be given access to online resource materials and tools which will give practical advice for teachers. The Government will help schools engage local enterprise champions to support school businesses and extend learning into the commercial environment. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked the Education and Employers Taskforce and its partners to lead this work. [Read the full story](#).

### TSL Education is our media partner

TSL Education (publisher of TES and THE) is our official media partner for the 2011 research conference and TES Editor, Gerard Kelly, has joined the Conference Programme Committee. [Click here](#)



### Taskforce & Warwick University research seminars 2011

To view the up-to-date free London research seminar programme of the Education and Employers Taskforce & Centre for Education and Industry at Warwick University please [click here](#)

### Our next seminar...

Professor Chris James, from the University of Bath, will be talking about 'School governors and employer engagement in education'. The free seminar takes place 13.20 – 1.30pm on 24 June 2011 in the Taskforce Offices in Holborn, central London. To reserve a place at the seminar, please submit your name and organisation to: [james.dawkins@educationandemployers.org](mailto:james.dawkins@educationandemployers.org) New research reported are continually added to our Research Report section [visit here](#)

### Harvard School of Education calls for sea-change in employer engagement

A Harvard Graduate School of Education report calls for a sea change in business and employer engagement in education, so that every American school student to have access to employer involvement in their education including career counselling, job shadowing, employer-designed school projects and workbased learning to better prepare young people for the twenty-first century labour market.

[Read the report](#)

### Growing Ambitions

Growing Ambitions, a community interest company has become part of the Taskforce's Inspiring the Future. We will be getting in touch with all the people who signed up as speakers and volunteers in schools to explain the next steps. We are very grateful to Sally Davies for transferring Growing Ambitions to the Taskforce to take it forward.

Sally, the founder of Growing Ambitions, created it as a result of getting poor quality careers advice for her teenage son. Sally recognised that nearly everyone uses the internet, and its role as a matchmaker between young people, employers and people doing the jobs they aspire to was obvious to her. Over the next two years she approached businesses around England to sign up to talk to young people about the jobs they do, and what qualifications and experience they needed to get there. Much of her network of 1000s of volunteers came from word of mouth.

The Taskforce's employee volunteering network will mobilise 100,000s of volunteers into the education sectors as everything from reading buddies to school governors. Visit: [www.educationandemployers.org/what-we-are-doing/inspiring-the-future](http://www.educationandemployers.org/what-we-are-doing/inspiring-the-future)



### Taskforce's Partnership Board - new members

Louise Rogers, Chief Executive of the TSL Education Ltd - publisher of TES and THE, Jackie Orme, Chief Executive of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD), John May, Chief Executive of Young Enterprise and Justin Davis Smith, Chief Executive of Volunteering England have joined the Taskforce's Partnership Board. Visit: [www.educationandemployers.org/who-we-are/the-partnership-board](http://www.educationandemployers.org/who-we-are/the-partnership-board)

### School leavers "need work skills and knowledge" say teachers' leaders

John Fairhurst, president of the Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL), highlighted at the 2011 conference how employers, schools and college leaders broadly agree on the core ingredients for a 21st century curriculum incorporating employability skills. Children need to leave school with the skills required for the workplace as well as academic knowledge. Fairhurst, said at the ASCL conference last month that "such skills should be recognised alongside GCSEs in England".



**Full story here**

### Prof Ewart Keep's presentation available to download

Professor Ewart Keep's seminar audio and Powerpoint presentations, on three decades of education and industry collaboration, are now available to download. Ewart is Deputy Director of SKOPE (ESRC Centre on Skills, Knowledge and Organisational Performance) is based at the Cardiff University, School of Social Sciences.

**Visit here for more details**

### The point of partnership explained

The Point of partnership: the case for employer engagement in education written by the Education and Employers Taskforce has been published in respected international journal *Strategic HR Review*. The primary audience is senior human resource professionals.

**To view the article**

### Europe increases interest in STEM careers

This comparative overview of national policies and reforms taking place in 16 European Schoolnet member countries demonstrates that increasing students' interest in pursuing mathematics, science and technology studies and careers is of high importance for Ministries of Education across Europe. **More details here**



Leading business body the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) supports call to include 'employability skills' in curriculum.

**For full conference coverage visit [here](#)**

### **McDonalds chief tells firms to end snobbery against school leavers**

McDonalds chief executive advises businesses to end snobbery against school leavers. She emphasises that as business and education move closer together, forward thinking companies are becoming educators as well as employers. **Read the full story**

Mc Donalds UK chief executive, Jill McDonald, took part in the October 2010 first national **Visit our Schools and Colleges campaign**.

### **The decision on EBPO funding**

The Schools' Minister, Nick Gibb MP, has outlined his position on work experience and Education Business Partnership Organisations. The Government are prioritising spending on front line services in schools.

It will be for schools to decide whether or not to buy in services from education business partnership organisations (EBPOs). Therefore EBPOs will need to ensure they are offering a high quality service and having the Award for Education Business Excellence will help signify that. In a letter Nick Gibb said: "The involvement of employers in education benefits young people, schools and businesses and, in my view, there are excellent opportunities for employers to help us to deliver our reforms".

**For more information click [here](#).**

### **Gove on governors**

The Taskforce has been asked by Michael Gove, the Secretary of State for Education, to see how more people from private and public sector employees can be encouraged to become school governors. Gove wants to progress towards every school benefitting from a governor who works in a local business. The Taskforce will be working with its Partnership Board on ideas about how to implement this.

**For more on governors.**

### **Open University helps recruit 300 school governors**

The Open University has encouraged 300 students, staff and alumni to apply to be school governors. A new School Governors One-Stop Shop (SGOSS) report analyses that recruitment drive, the training given to new recruits and the reasons behind their volunteering.

**Full report**

### **Funding Review**

Thank you to everyone who submitted evidence to the Department for Education (DfE) funding review in January and February. There was an excellent response to the call for evidence.

The Department for Education asked the Taskforce to manage and coordinate a high-level review estimating the returns on investment for different kinds of employer engagement in education and an assessment of the costs and benefits of different delivery options, in order to inform Government policy from April 2012 onwards.



### **Alison Wolf's Review of Vocational Education published**

The Government's response to Professor Alison Wolf's Review of Vocational Education has been published. The response is now available to **download here** If you have any questions about the response you can email: [wolf.review@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:wolf.review@education.gsi.gov.uk)

### **Every Child a Chance seconds a member of staff to support the Taskforce**

The Every Child a Chance Trust has kindly seconded a member of staff to support the Taskforce from May 2011. Jeanette Grose will be seconded to the Taskforce for a year. She will work with the Taskforce to help engage more business support and evidence examples of effective education and employer initiatives.

### **New staff appointed**

James Dawkins has joined the Taskforce as a Research Assistant. His previous experience includes the Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion, Reform Policy Institute and the British Youth Council. James has an MSC in Social Science Research Methods.

Daniel Chapman has been appointed Events and Communications Coordinator. He previously worked as a Campaigns Coordinator and worked for a Member of Parliament.

Ashley Hodges has officially been appointed Projects Coordinator for Speakers for Schools. She recently graduated from the London School of Economics and prior to this she lived in the USA where she worked with the Barack Obama 2008 presidential campaign team.

### **Associate Fellow at the Centre for Industry and Education**

The Taskforce's Dr Anthony Mann has been appointed Associate Research Fellow in the Centre for Industry and Education at the University of Warwick. Visit: <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/cei/>

### **BE 2011 programme announced**

BE 2011, the National Convention of the Institute for Education Business Excellence (IEBE) 'What next for work-related learning and enterprise education?' is taking place on 9 June at the Business Design Centre in London. Visit the IEBE's dedicated conference website to book an exhibition space or delegate place:

[www.be-convention.co.uk](http://www.be-convention.co.uk)

