

Education and Employers Taskforce Projects Update October 2011

Speakers for Schools is being launched the week of 10 October 2011 with a series of talks in state secondary schools around England. It is the idea of BBC Business Editor, Robert Peston, who wants young people in state schools and colleges to have the same opportunities to hear from inspirational speakers as those who attend top independent schools. The idea is to level the playing field and for it to become the norm for leaders in their fields to give talks such as these. Speakers during launch week include: George Alagiah (BBC News), William Boyd (author), Damon Buffini (business leader), Sir Suma Chakrabarti (Ministry of Justice), Marcus Davey (Roundhouse theatre), Martha Lane Fox (founder Lastminute .com), Andy Haldane (Bank of England), Julia Hobsbawm (media entrepreneur), Laurence Hollingworth (J.P. Morgan), Ruby McGregor-Smith (MITIE), Sir John Parker (Royal Academy of Engineering), Robert Peston (BBC), Trevor Phillips, (Equality & Human Rights Commission), Dame Marjorie Scardino (Pearson), Philipp Schindler (Google), Lord Rees (Astronomer Royal) and Baroness Vadera (former cabinet minister). Also taking part from the world of politics and government are David Cameron, Nick Clegg, Ed Miliband and Sir Gus O'Donnell. <http://www.speakers4schools.org/>

Registrations open for Inspiring the Future: a service which will see tens of thousands of people from all sectors and professions going into schools and colleges to talk about their jobs and careers, and the education routes they took. The initiative was highlighted in the Government's Social Mobility Strategy as a way to 'make a difference to raising aspirations and helping people to make informed choices about jobs and careers'. The Government has committed to encourage all civil servants to participate in the scheme and it is included in the Business Compact which many businesses are taking part in. A generous donation from the J.P. Morgan Chase Foundation will help enable the scale-up of the Inspiring the Future programme to reach audiences nationally. www.inspiringthefuture.org

Research Conference on Education and Social Mobility: On 12 October the Taskforce is holding its second annual international research conference at Warwick University with Professor Robert Schwartz from Harvard University and participants from the United States, Canada, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Gambia, India, Lebanon, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sweden, Trinidad & Tobago and Tanzania. <http://www.educationandemployers.org/research/research-conference-2011/>

The 15 October 2011 marks the second anniversary of the formal launch of the Taskforce.

