

Taskforce

'Year in View 2012'

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The Education and Employers Taskforce

January 2013

We are delighted to start 2013 with great news about generous donations which will enable expansion of two important programmes launched by the Education and Employers Taskforce: *Inspiring the Future* and *Speakers for Schools*. Two new grants, one from Bank of America Merrill Lynch and another from the Cabinet Office's Innovation in Giving Fund, administered by NESTA, will enable the major expansion of *Inspiring the Future*. The grant from Bank of America Merrill Lynch will allow us to continue to provide a free service to state schools and colleges in the UK, over half of which have already registered for career insight talks. [\(Read more\)](#)

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Speakers for Schools has secured funding from Andrew Law, Chairman and Chief Executive of Caxton Associates to enable the programme to expand its operations. *Speakers for Schools* was founded by Robert Peston to provide young people at state schools with the same access to inspirational speakers, for free, as those in fee-paying schools. Today following Taskforce launches in England (2011) and Scotland and Wales (2012), there are 800 speakers and 1,500 schools registered. The new *Speakers for Schools* charity will continue to work closely with the Taskforce as a sister charity and operationally, speakers and schools should see no difference in the organisation or its mission. [\(Read more\)](#)

Latest Research Updates 2013

Inspiring the Future launches nationally

**inspiring
the
future**

Hear about Inspiring the Future on ITV News:

www.itv.com/news/story/2012-07-02/clegg-backs-careers-drive/

The 2nd July saw the national launch of free volunteering in education initiative Inspiring the Future. To mark the launch scores of leading employers took part in a careers networking event at a school in Tower Hamlets - one of England's most disadvantaged areas. Speakers included: Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg; Sir Roger Carr, President of the CBI and Chairman of Centrica; Brian Lightman, General Secretary of the Association of School and College Leaders and actor Joanna Lumley.



Everyone from CEOs to apprentices can volunteer for Inspiring the Future. Registration is free for both volunteers and state schools/colleges: www.inspiringthefuture.org

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The launch received extensive media coverage including:

BBC News online: www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-18676635

BBC 1's Newsround: www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/18690496

The Telegraph: www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/jobs/9365973/Workers-urged-to-volunteer-careers-advice-in-schools.html

All main political parties support Inspiring the Future

David Cameron, Nick Clegg and Ed Miliband all support the programme. [See what the party leaders say.....](#)

View photographs of the Inspiring the Future launch 'careers marketplace' featuring nearly 100 employers and 1,000 young people:

www.flickr.com/photos/edu_employers/sets/72157630526657924/show/



Employer engagement in schools: an agent for economic growth

The Taskforce's 'It's who you meet' (www.educationandemployers.org/research/taskforce-publications/its-who-you-meet/research) is cited in the '*No stone unturned*' Lord Heseltine UK growth report. Heseltine calls for a massive increase in employer engagement in state secondary schools, echoing the mission of the Taskforce.

National volunteering programme Inspiring the Future makes it easy and free for employers to engage with state schools and colleges to help them with career, training and further education choices, to register: <http://www.inspiringthefuture.org/>

Read the full report: www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/corporate/docs/n/12-1213-no-stone-unturned-in-pursuit-of-growth.pdf

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Inspiring the Future is changing our national culture of volunteering

Inspiring the Future is gathering momentum as 1,000s diverse professionals are volunteering to help young people in state schools and colleges learn about the world of work, careers and employability.

State schools and colleges around the country are using *Inspiring the Future* to help them:

- Host career fairs with up to 80 employers
- Host 'work experience awareness' days
- Increase their 'employer pool' for regular classroom talks
- Hold STEM afternoons
- Arrange 'speed dating' style events with local employers
- Host collegiate career fairs where all secondary schools in their Local Authority area are invited

A generous donation from Bank of America Merrill Lynch will be helping to support and develop *Inspiring the Future* in 2013 so we can reach more state school pupils.

What employers are saying.....

Sir Roger Carr, President, CBI and Chair of Centrica says: "*Inspiring the Future* has the strong support of the Confederation of British because it is a primary means of giving young people real insight into the growing range of jobs which are available and how they can best prepare themselves for them."

Gaenor Bagley, head of people, PwC said: "*Inspiring the Future* is a simple idea, with far-reaching consequences. We have to demystify the world of work, business and what young people's options are for study, if we are to realistically attract a wider range of people to the professions. My own experience in the classroom shows this will also be a great opportunity to help teachers and education bring subjects like maths, English and science to life for students. Seeing how these subjects and skills can be used in everyday work, and where these subjects can go in terms of jobs, breaks down misconceptions about access and opportunity."

Hundreds of high profile organisations are volunteering with *Inspiring the Future* including; Bank of America Merrill Lynch, BBC, Department for Business Innovation and Skills, British Gas, Cabinet Office, Compass Group UK, Deloitte LLP, Deutsche Bank, Electricity North West, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP, Google UK Ltd, Hewlett Packard, London Borough of Camden, Nestle UK, Pearson Education, PricewaterhouseCoopers UK, Serco, Standard Chartered Bank and Virgin Trains.

What a teacher says....

Tim Cook, Assistant Head at the Wye Valley School, Buckinghamshire says: "The difference an employer can make when coming in to speak to young people can be profound. They have experiences that the young person might only have dreamt of - or even not have dreamt of yet! By being able to relate actual incidents and dealing with people on a day-to-day basis, this is something additional that teachers can't always offer directly. For employers wondering whether they have anything of merit to offer, I urge you to put yourself forward. Our young people need positive role models and they need to be able to see pathways into the world of employment. This in turn will encourage them to work harder, to achieve better grades and to be confident leaders within our communities."

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Teachers and parents call for employers to play bigger role in the classroom

School teachers and parents are calling for UK employers to increase their involvement in education by playing a greater role in advising - and providing work experience for - young people. That's according to new independent research by the Association of Colleges to mark 'Colleges Week 2012' which ran from 11-18 November 2012.

Over two-thirds of parents want educators to put greater focus on preparing their offspring for employment. Read the [Association of Colleges research and see the Infographics](#). For Colleges Week 2012 the Association of Colleges endorsed *Inspiring the Future* by writing to all its members to encourage them to register.

Global Entrepreneurship Week 2012 - call for enterprise champions

Global Entrepreneurship Week, the world's largest campaign to promote entrepreneurship, took place November 2012. Inspiring the Future is working with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) to use the legacy of the week to increase the number of 'enterprise champions' volunteering to speak with pupils in state schools and colleges and encouraging more employers to get involved. Entrepreneurs from businesses of all sizes can register to talk in schools with Inspiring the Future.

Read about Global Entrepreneurship Week: www.gew.org.uk/about

Closing the Gap: altering perceptions of Apprenticeships

In December, charity Education and Employers Taskforce and PWC have published a thought piece 'Closing the Gap: How employers can change the way young people see Apprenticeships'. It highlights Inspiring the Future as a practical step that all employers, of any size or sector, can take to help young people understand and consider apprenticeships.



Read the full Closing the Gap report:

http://www.educationandemployers.org/media/17513/web_25021_pwc_closing_the_gap_tp_final.pdf

inspiringthe**future**.org

Bill Gates visits Deptford school as part of Speakers for Schools



Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Founder and Chairman of Microsoft, met with students at Deptford Green School in January to talk about his 2012 Annual Letter.

The visit was organised by Speakers for Schools/ the Education and Employers Taskforce. Bill Gates responded to a selection of letters by the students and engaged in an interactive discussion about their world-changing ideas.



Bill Gates, at Depford Green School, Lewisham

Watch the Channel 4 News clip:

www.channel4.com/news/bill-gates-aims-for-ultimate-goal-in-30-years

Speakers for Schools launches in Scotland

Speakers for Schools launched in Scotland with talks in state secondary schools by Alex Salmond, First Minister and Michael Moore, Secretary of State for Scotland. Talks from leaders in business, culture, academia and media followed during the launch week of 9-16 November.

Read the full story: www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-20259726

Read our Press Release to see who took part in the launch week talks: <http://bit.ly/X7Fmss>

Secretary of State for Scotland, Michael Moore, speaking at his former school Jedburgh Grammar:

www.eastkilbridenews.co.uk/lanarkshire-news/scottish-news/2012/11/09/moore-to-speak-at-former-school-68653-32197557/



First Minister, Alex Salmond at Bucksburn Academy in Aberdeen.

Speakers for Schools launches across Wales

Speakers for Schools launched across Wales the week of 26 – 30 November with a week of high profile talks in schools. State secondary schools and colleges can now register for a free speaker. The national launch kicked off with Robert Peston speaking in English on BBC Radio 'Good Morning Wales' and author Simon Thirsk speaking in Welsh on BBC Radio Cymru. The initiative has cross party political support.

Read the full press release to see who else took part in the launch. <http://bit.ly/SKiHHV>



Employer contact at school reduces likelihood of becoming NEET

Groundbreaking new Taskforce research shows a significant link between young people's experience of the world of work whilst at school and the chances of them becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training) as young adults. 26.1% of young people who could recall no contact with employers whilst at school went on to become NEET. This reduced significantly to 4.3% for those who had taken part in four or more activities involving employers (career insights, mentoring, work tasters, work experience).

The research '*It's who you meet: why employer contacts at school make a difference to the employment prospects of young adults*' published in March by the Education and Employers Taskforce is based on a survey undertaken pro-bono by YouGov which asked young adults aged 19-24 about their current employment status and to reflect on their experiences of the world of work whilst they were at school.

Read the full report ***It's who you meet: why employer contacts at school make a difference to the employment prospects of young adults***. www.educationandemployers.org/research/taskforce-publications/its-who-you-meet/

New free research library gains world-wide interest

A major new free research library has gained world-wide interest including from the OECD, Harvard University and the Japanese government. Policy makers, researchers, journalists, business and school leaders interested in education and employer engagement can now visit the Research library: www.educationandemployers.org/research/

The Taskforce's Research pages have seen their 5,000 download just as a Special Edition of the Journal of Education and Work is based on papers from the Education and Employers Taskforce's inaugural research conference entitled '*The point of partnership: understanding employer engagement in education*' visit: www.tandf.co.uk/journals/spissue/cjew-si.asp

Professor Alison Wolf debate

The Education and Employers Taskforce hosted a seminar and debate with Professor Alison Wolf, from King's College London, about school-to-work transitions in a liberal economy. This is part of a free monthly seminar series co-sponsored by the Centre for Industry at the University of Warwick.

Watch the seminar: www.educationandemployers.org/research/research-seminars/professor-alison-wolf---19th-september,-2012/

OECD calls for governments to urgently invest in education

Governments should increase investment in childhood to reduce inequality, boost social mobility and improve people's employment prospects, according to an Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) report. The Education and Employers Taskforce brought Andreas Schleicher, Deputy Director for Education and Special Advisor on Education Policy to the OECD's Secretary-General, over from Paris for a meeting in September.

Read the full report: www.oecd.org/edu/eag2012.htm

Top five downloads

During 2012 Taskforce research reports were downloaded more than 5,000 times.

1. [It's Who You Meet: why employer contacts at school make a difference to the employment prospects of young adults](#)
2. [Work Experience: impact and delivery – insights from the evidence](#)
3. [Enterprise Education: value and direction](#)
4. [Employer Engagement in English Independent Schools](#)
5. [The Economic Case for Language Learning and the Role of Employer Engagement](#)

Funding news - donations allow programme expansion

For this year, a significant grant from Bank of America Merrill Lynch will enable the major expansion of Inspiring the Future, and allow us to continue to provide a free service to state schools and colleges in the UK, over half of which have already registered for career insight talks. In addition to securing new dedicated support from the Bank of America Merrill Lynch Inspiring the Future, the development of the programme will also be supported by a significant grant from NESTA's Innovation Giving fund which targets social action invocations promising to bring about step changes in volunteering. Funding has also been secured from Andrew Law, Chairman and Chief Executive of Caxton Associates, for Speakers for Schools which will now expand its operations as a separate independent charity.

Clear link between work-experience at school & job prospects in later life

The quality of teenagers' work experience is strongly linked to future careers but must rely on more than just their parents' connections, a heads and employers report by the Education and Employer Taskforce says. Read the full report:

www.educationandemployers.org/media/15807/work_experience_report__april_2012_.pdf

Our research report received extensive media coverage, including the following:

Financial Times: www.ft.com/cms/s/0/72abb40a-8a38-11e1-a0c8-00144feab49a.html

BBC News: www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-17743985