

Taskforce NEWS

The newsletter of the Education and Employers Taskforce

NOVEMBER 2010 | ISSUE 4



Education
AND
Employers
TASKFORCE



News

Visit our Schools and Colleges 'thank you!'

Thank you to all the individuals and organisations who made the first national Visit our Schools and Colleges campaign a success. We are planning to run the campaign again in autumn 2011. We value your feedback so will be conducting a full evaluation between now and January.

John Hayes, Minister of State for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning visit

Visit our Schools and Colleges week started with a visit by John Hayes MP, Minister of State for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning and David Cruickshank, chairman of Deloitte to Lambeth College in Vauxhall, London. Over a one month period 700 employers from all over the country, including 104 chief executives and chairmen from many of the UK's leading and FTSE 100 companies undertook visits.

Those visiting schools and colleges included: Lionel Barber, Editor, FT; Sir Win Bischoff, Chairman, Lloyds Banking Group; Sir William Castell, Chairman, The Wellcome Trust; Clare Chapman, Director General of Workforce, NHS Workforce; Adam Crozier, Chief Executive, ITV; Paul Drechsler, Chairman and Chief Executive, Wates; Terry Duddy, Chief Executive, Home Retail Group; Philip Green, CEO, United Utilities; John Griffith-Jones, Chairman, KPMG; Sir Philip Hampton, Chairman, RBS; Andy Haldane, Executive Director, Bank of England; Rick Haythornthwaite, Chairman, Network Rail; Sam Laidlaw, Chief Executive, Centrica; Sir Terry Leahy, CEO, Tesco; Sir Stuart Rose, Chairman, Marks and Spencer; Sir John Rose, Chief Executive, Rolls-Royce Group; Roland Rudd, Founding Partner, Finsbury; Lord Colin Sharman OBE, Chairman, Aviva Group; John Varley, Group Chief Executive, Barclays and George Weston, CEO, Associated British Foods.

For the full press release visit [here](#).

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

New research seminar series in 2011

On the 13 January 2011 Dr Gill Haynes, Exeter University, will be leading a seminar on 'Work-related Learning and Employer Engagement: Findings from the National Evaluation of 14-19 Diplomas.' This will be the first in a new regular series of free seminars taking place at the Taskforce's office in Holborn, London.

To reserve a free place, information on this seminar or future events, please email: events@educationandemployers.org

Taskforce Research Conference videos and full papers now available

In October the Taskforce held its first academic research conference at the University of Warwick to bring together academics, HR professionals, educators and business people to explore education and employer engagement. The Education and Employers Taskforce research conference website is now complete with 24 papers which can be downloaded, and with 13 conference videos. This site includes videos and papers from: Professor Hugh Lauder, Louise Archer, Philip Grollman, Ewart Keep, Hans van der Loo, Prue Huddleston and Jeremy Higham. The papers cover a range of topics including apprenticeships, work experience, a strategic review of employer engagement in further education and employer benefits. Visit [here](#):

News

Letter from Nick Gibb, Minister of State for Schools

A letter to the Taskforce about the Visit our Schools and Colleges campaign from Nick Gibbs, Minister of State for Schools, says: **“There is good evidence, which I know you are doing more to develop, that employers support for education can make a genuine difference to attainment, progression and to the transitions young people must make between school, further and higher education and into work.”**

The letter continues: **“I don’t think there can be much doubt that the voluntary contribution employers make is highly valuable to young people and schools. We must continue to encourage it, whether serving on a schools’ governing body or offering a work experience placement to a 16 year old”.**



Financial Times newspaper publishes Working with Schools

On 5 November the Financial Times newspaper published a 16-page Working with Schools report highlighting the work of the Education and Employers Taskforce, its partners and other organisations working in the field. Visit:

<http://www.ft.com/reports/schools-2010>

Robert Peston’s Speakers for Schools site live

Initial information about the new Speakers for Schools site founded by BBC Business Editor Robert Peston is now live. The official website launch when it will become operational will be in early 2011. Visit: <http://www.speakers4schools.org/>

What is to be gained through partnership? (2nd edition)

This Taskforce report published in October 2010 pulls together robust UK and international evidence on employer engagement.

What is to be gained through partnership? provides high quality evidence about the benefits of education and employer engagement to young people, schools and employers, including recent research:

- from the US demonstrating 11% higher wages eight years after leaving school, earned by young people who had had experience of intense work-related learning compared to a control group
- on significant impact made by employee representatives as school governors in the UK
- on how volunteering with schools is a cost effective means of developing core staff competencies for employers.

Click [here](#) to read the full report.

EVENTS & ANNOUCEMENTS

Stimulating Science

EdComs are hosting a free science seminar on 26 November 9am to 12.15 at EdComs, Capital Tower, 91 Waterloo Road, London, SE1 8RT.

It’s a seminar for 50 employers and stakeholders in the field of marketing, corporate responsibility and community investment. Confirmed speakers include: Andrew Carrick Director, EdComs, Gerry O’Keeffe, Customer Support Director, OCR, Stephen Diston, Qualifications Team Manager - GCSE Science, OCR, Ian Duffy, Business Adviser, UK Social and Community Affairs, BP and Michael Barham, KS4 Co-ordinator, Walthamstow School for Girls.

One to the topics for debate is; how will the new GCSE Science qualifications due in September 2011 differ from existing courses, and what are the opportunities for brands to support teaching and learning?

For more details [click here](#).

New mailing group: subscribe now

The Education and Employers Taskforce has launched a new email group, to bring together those who are interested in evidence surrounding what happens to young people, teachers and employees, when employers engage in schools, colleges and universities. It will spread awareness of activities such as; new publications, conferences and seminars.

To subscribe please email researchmail@educationandemployers.org with the subject line: SUBSCRIBE.

Working with Governors – get in touch!

Research evidence and personal experience has demonstrated that interpersonal and workplace skills are developed through volunteering as a school governor. The Taskforce has recently been working with a number of employer organisations, large and small, which are exploring how volunteering and being a school governor can be integrated into staff development and the managerial tool-kit – and how, in turn, they might be able to better

News

Helping young people succeed: the role of employers

Deloitte, the business advisory firm, launched a report in October, commissioned by the Education and Employers Taskforce, examining how employers can contribute to improving careers education through inspiring and better informing young people. The dynamic labour market and the vast range of career options available can leave young people feeling bewildered and uninformed. The research shows that a substantial divide between what young people want from their careers advice at school and what they get, including the level of involvement of employers.

Click [here](#) to read the full report.

Learning outside the classroom crucial, says Ofsted

To read Ofsted's response to the Commons Education Committee Report Transforming Education Outside the Classroom please visit [here](#)

The new government's response to the Commons Education Committee's report both acknowledges the importance of learning outside the classroom and promises to investigate the constraints on schools arising from unnecessary health and safety red tape or from teachers' pay and conditions.

Also see Education Executive article [here](#)

Wolf Review of Vocational Education

On 9 September, Education Secretary Michael Gove announced a major independent review of vocational education for 14 to 19 year olds, to be led by Professor Alison Wolf, of King's College London.

Professor Wolf is looking at the organisation of vocational education and its responsiveness to a changing labour market, and is considering ways to increase incentives for young people to participate. The review is also taking explicit account of good practice in a selection of developed economies.

Professor Wolf is examining:

- institutional arrangements
- funding mechanisms, including arrangements for who bears the cost of qualifications
- progression from vocational education to work, higher education and higher level training
- the role of the third sector, private providers, employers and awarding bodies.

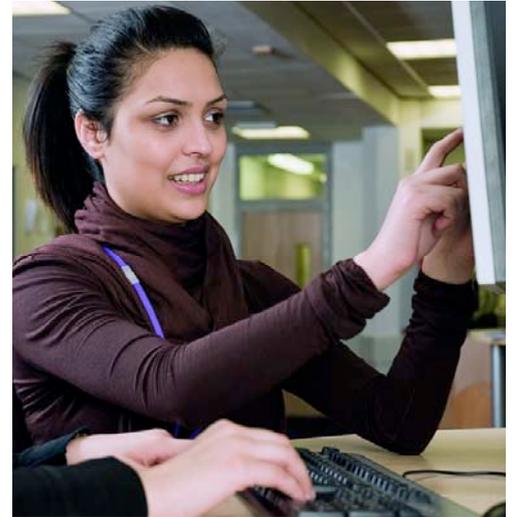
The call for evidence closed on 29 October. Professor Wolf is now considering the submissions received, and is continuing to gather further information through interviews. She is due to submit a final report in spring 2011, which will include recommendations on how vocational education can be improved.

If you have any questions about the review you can contact the Review Secretariat at wolf.review@education.gsi.gov.uk.

support their volunteers as governors. If you would like to discuss these ideas with us and perhaps get some support in making this a reality in your organisation, we would love to hear from you.

Contact:

Christian.Percy@educationandemployers.org



School Governors needed!

School Governors' One-Stop Shop (SGOSS) is an independent charity supported by the Department for Education to place skilled volunteers into school governor positions. SGOSS offer a free service to:

1. Schools looking for school governors
2. Volunteers looking for an exciting new challenge
3. Businesses looking to develop links with the local community and enhance their CSR

If you volunteer, as well as the satisfaction of knowing you are making a real difference, you will use and improve a range of highly transferable skills, work with new people and have the opportunity to apply your knowledge and experience in a new environment.

For more information visit: www.sgooss.org.uk call: 020 7288 9538 or email: info@sgooss.org.uk

Cass Business School evaluation to be published

Business in the Community welcomed 158 business people and 34 schools to 8 school visits taking place nationwide during Visit our Schools and Colleges Week. Recent research covering primary, secondary, special schools and academies undertaken for the Taskforce by KPMG states that: "few schools reported highly developed partnerships where the level of engagement is systematic across the school, and many would like partnerships to be more sustainable for both the school and for the employer". With this in mind, the focus of Business in the Community's visits during the Visit our Schools and Colleges week was on Business Class.

Business Class provides a strategic and long-term framework of support for businesses working with secondary schools serving our most deprived communities. Businesses work together in localised clusters to share best practice and, by operating within a common framework locally, can help learning and create impact nationally. Since inception in 2008, it has gained increasing traction in the NW and further afield, with more than 60 businesses supporting its development in 87 established or emerging partnerships with secondary schools.

Cass Business School have evaluated this collaborative model as a highly effective, significantly raising attainment and employability of pupils. This evaluation will be launched on 2 December to coincide with a leadership summit attended by HRH Prince of Wales. At the summit Business Class will be showcased as a key exemplar of Big Society ideology, encompassing localised collaborative action by schools, businesses and the broader community.

For information visit [here](#):

New chairman leads HTI into 25th year

Dr Noorzaman Rashid, Director of The Board Practice and Leadership Services at global recruitment consultancy Harvey Nash, has been appointed as the new Chair of Trustees at HTI (Heads, Teachers & Industry) which celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2011.

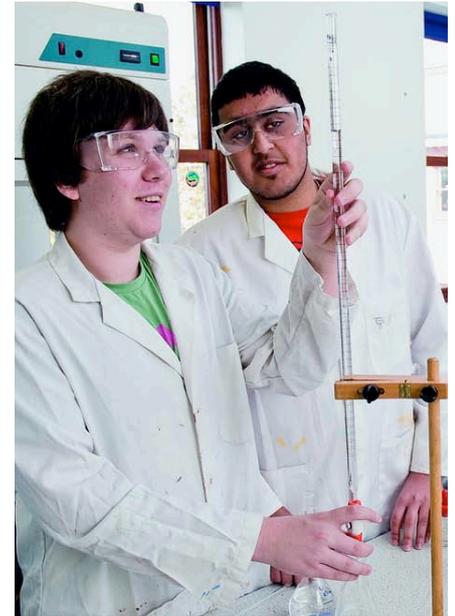
The former Fellow of Warwick Business School has over 15 years boardroom experience from across the commercial, public and not for profit sectors. His latest social enterprise is the creation of a social bank, UK Savers.



The Skills Factor final

Taskforce News would like to congratulate Roundhay School Technology and Language College for winning the inaugural The Skills Factor Final. Held in BAFTA, London, three students from Leeds delivered an impressive presentation of an App they designed to help A' Level Psychology students revise for their exams.

As winners, they will now get the opportunity to meet some of Silicone Valley's top innovators and entrepreneurs at a special event at Cambridge University. For information about The Skills Factor visit: <http://www.youngchamber.com>



The Diploma NEWS

The Diploma: key announcements

Ofsted's view on 14- 19 reforms

Successful partnership between schools, colleges and employers is key to widening opportunities for 14-19 year olds an Ofsted Implementation of 14-19 reforms report reveals.

To gather the evidence for the survey report, inspectors observed classes, scrutinised students' work and discussed progress with young people, teachers and managers in 23 of the 14-19 areas (known as consortia) involved in the first phase of introducing the diplomas and other 14-19 reforms. The report reveals that employer engagement is crucial and effective in supporting learning. Also that at this relatively early stage, the variety of initiatives had reduced the number of 14-19 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) in 19 of the 23 areas visited.

Ofsted report is available [here](#).

For more information on Diplomas, please [visit here](#).

The
Diploma
Employer Champions Network

