

Reviewing the English Curriculum

Part of the Westminster Education Forum National Curriculum Seminar Series

Timing: Morning, Wednesday, 29th February 2012

Venue: Sixty One Whitehall, London SW1A 2ET



WESTMINSTER
EDUCATION
FORUM

Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chairman's opening remarks**
James Gray MP, Member, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Education
- 9.05 - 9.35 **How and Why Children Read - Thoughts on reading, phonics and drama**
Julia Donaldson, Children's Laureate 2011-13
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.35 - 9.45 **'Looking for the Heart of English' - the focus for the teaching of English in the 21st century**
David Reedy, Participant, *Looking for the Heart of English* and Immediate Past President, UK Literacy Association (UKLA)
- 9.45 - 10.45 **The challenges for English education - teaching and assessment**
Will the planned introduction of phonic reading tests at age six help improve early identification of pupils with literacy problems? Would the proposed reform of English Key Stage 2 SATs, to introduce a specific spelling, grammar, punctuation and vocabulary test, be likely to raise standards in these specific areas of literacy? How can teachers continue to build upon the work of the Reading Recovery Project despite shortfalls in funding? How can schools support pupils with dyslexia to reach at least basic standards at 11 and 16? Will plans to ensure all pupils without a grade C in GCSE English continue English education until 18 be successful in raising literacy levels for school-leavers? Is a GCSE C grade in English Language and English Literature in line with employers' requirements? Should theatre and author visits become part of pupils' core educational entitlement, and if so, how could this be funded? What will be the impact of library closures on literacy levels and encouraging young people to become lifelong readers?
Heather Stack, Founder & SEN Consultant, HMStack Consulting
Annie Mauger, Chief Executive, Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP)
Simon Gibbons, Chair, National Association for the Teaching of English
Judy Ellerby, Principal Officer Primary, Education and Equalities, National Union of Teachers (NUT)
Gary Pollard, Head of English, AQA
Questions and comments from the floor with **David Reedy**, Participant, *Looking for the Heart of English* and Immediate Past President, UK Literacy Association (UKLA)
- 10.45 - 10.50 **Chairman's closing remarks**
James Gray MP, Member, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Education
- 10.50 - 11.20 Coffee
- 11.20 - 11.25 **Chairman's opening remarks**
Martin Horwood MP, Vice-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Education
- 11.25 - 11.55 **The National Curriculum Review so far**
Chris Brockhurst, Lead Policy Adviser for English, GCSE Reform Division, Department for Education
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.55 - 12.55 **Developing a new Programme of Study for English**
Perspectives from key stakeholders on the ideal shape and scope of the English Curriculum. What are the needs of pupils, universities and employers in the 21st century and how can the new English curriculum meet these needs? To what extent should English incorporate multi-modal literacy skills such as use of media, visual and digital texts? What examples of best practice, from the UK and abroad, should the new curriculum implement to help improve the UK's international rankings in literacy? Should topical texts that represent contemporary literary and political concerns be included in prescribed text lists, or should the curriculum focus on seminal texts? What role should drama play within the English curriculum?
Alison Peacock, Headteacher, Wroxham School, Hertfordshire and Leader, Cambridge Primary Review National Network
Dr Bethan Marshall, Senior Lecturer in English Education, King's College London
Paul Dodd, Qualifications Group Manager, English and Maths Team, OCR
Patrice Baldwin, Chair, National Drama
Adrian Barlow, Chairman, Board of Trustees, English Association
Simon White, Headteacher, Lawnswood School, Leeds and Lead, Response to the Review of English in the new National Curriculum and former Chairman, Humanities Steering Group, The Schools Network
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chairman's and Westminster Education Forum thanks and closing remarks**
Martin Horwood MP, Vice-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Education
Sean Cudmore, Senior Producer, Westminster Education Forum