Westminster Education Forum Keynote Seminar: Reforming England's exam system: quality of marking, exam appeals and priorities for the new Chief Regulator

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 30th June 2016

Venue: Royal Over-Seas League, Over-Seas House, Park Place, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR

Agenda subject to change

8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee 9.00 - 9.05 Chair's opening remarks

Rt Hon Stephen Timms MP, Member, Education Select Committee

9.05 - 9.15 England's exam system - current state of play

Professor Roger Murphy, former Member, Ofqual Standards Advisory Group, Board Member,

Pearson Education and Associate Director, AlphaPlus Consultancy

9.15 - 10.05 Improving the quality of marking

Building trust in England's exams - addressing concerns around grade change at GCSEs and A-level

Dr William Richardson, General Secretary, The Headmasters' & Headmistresses' Conference (HMC)

Improving overall marking quality

Sharon Hague, Senior Vice President, Pearson Qualification Services

Tackling barriers to the recruitment of high quality examiners

Suzanne O'Farrell, Curriculum and Assessment Specialist, ASCL

Latest on the potential of e-marking and e-assessment: reducing marker workload and improving accuracy

James Redgate, Head of Business Development, RM Results

Questions and comments from the floor with Professor Roger Murphy, former Member,

Ofqual Standards Advisory Group, Board Member, Pearson Education and Associate Director, AlphaPlus Consultancy

10.05 - 10.45 Reforms to exams appeals and access arrangements

Will Ofqual's proposed changes, intended to improve transparency of appeals, including extending the grounds under which pupils can challenge remarks, succeed in increasing parent and teacher confidence in appeals; what further options might be considered? Will the new proposals to only allow mark changes when there is a marking error, address concerns that the appeals system currently discriminates against pupils that cannot afford the cost of remarking? What further steps could be taken to improve the overall appeals and re-marking system? How can schools address personnel and space issues when catering for pupils with access arrangements, with the rise in the number of summer exams caused by the introduction of linear exams?

Russell Hobby, General Secretary, NAHT

Andrew Harland, Chief Executive Officer, Examination Officers' Association

Andrew Hall, Chief Executive Officer, AQA Questions and comments from the floor

10.45 - 10.50 Chair's closing remarks

Rt Hon Stephen Timms MP, Member, Education Select Committee

10.50 - 11.15 Coffee

11.15 - 11.20 Chair's opening remarks

Baroness Perry of Southwark, Vice-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Education

11.20 - 11.55 **Developing and delivering high quality assessments**

Addressing concerns around the validity of exams

Professor Paul Black, Emeritus Professor of Science Education, King's College London

Incentivising quality in qualifications

Gabriel Heller Sahlgren, Director of Research, The Centre for the Study of Market Reform of Education

Questions and comments from the floor

11.55 - 12.45 Priorities for the new Chief Regulator

Developing an exams system fit for the 21st century

Junaid Mubeen, Head of Product, Whizz Education

Preparing young people for work - keeping pace with the changing skill sets required by employers

Seamus Nevin, Head of Employment and Skills Policy, Institute of Directors

<u>Supporting students to make a smooth transition into higher education - the role of assessments</u>

Steve Watts, Chair, Admissions Forum, University of Cambridge

Tackling the issues of rising exam costs and the impact on broadening the range of subjects on offer at GCSE and A-level

Geoff Hurst, Managing Director, Altain Education

Questions and comments from the floor

12.45 - 13.10 Reforming England's examination system - opportunities and challenges

Dr Michelle Meadows, Executive Director for Strategy, Risk and Research, Ofqual

Questions and comments from the floor

13.10 - 13.15 Chair's and Westminster Education Forum closing remarks

Baroness Perry of Southwark, Vice-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Education

Dieuni Welihinda, Forum Lead, Westminster Education Forum

Seminar supported by RM Results



