

## Westminster Education Forum Keynote Seminar:

### Reforming England's examination system - quality of marking, market regulation and tackling malpractice

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> June 2014

Venue: Royal College of Nursing, 20 Cavendish Square, London W1G 0RN

Agenda subject to change



WESTMINSTER  
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- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chairman's opening remarks**  
**Baroness Perry of Southwark**, Vice-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Education
- 9.05 - 9.20 **Restoring confidence in England's exam system**  
**Professor Rob Coe**, Professor, School of Education and Director, Centre for Evaluation and Monitoring (CEM), Durham University
- 9.20 - 10.10 **The future of assessment, improving quality of marking and the appeals process**  
*How well do the recommendations in Ofqual's review of marking address the issues of consistency of marking between examiners? What steps can be taken by awarding bodies to share best practice between awarding bodies? In light of concerns that changes to GCSEs and A-levels will increase the number of markers required, how can awarding bodies address this challenge? Is there a need for more formal training for examiners, and if so what might this consist of? What steps can Ofqual take to encourage greater use of item-level marking, and how valid are concerns - raised by some learned societies - about using this method over the traditional whole-script approach? What shape should the proposed new indicators for monitoring and measuring the quality of marking take in order to be most effective? What would be the potential benefits and challenges of expanding the use of assessments taken electronically by students? What changes need to be made to the appeals system - due to be reformed in time for summer 2015 - in order to boost confidence in the system? Will the new school accountability measures, designed to remove the focus on the C/D borderline, reduce the number of appeals being lodged?*  
**Tim Downie**, Business Development Director, RM Results  
**Andrew Harland**, Chief Executive, Examination Officers' Association  
**Peter Hamilton**, Headmaster, The Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School, Hertfordshire and Chair, Academic Policy Committee, Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference  
**Sarah Maughan**, Director of Research, National Foundation for Educational Research  
**Sylke Scheiner**, Director of Standards, OCR  
Questions and comments from the floor with **Professor Rob Coe**, Professor, School of Education and Director, Centre for Evaluation and Monitoring (CEM), Durham University
- 10.10 - 11.00 **Relationship between publishers and awarding bodies and steps to tackle exam malpractice**  
*What further measures can Ofqual take to strengthen the identification and reduction of malpractice by exam centres, and by candidates - including the issue of plagiarism? Does the relationship between awarding bodies and publishers require greater regulation? Is there a greater need for Ofqual to reform the system whereby awarding bodies endorse study guides, to reduce the extent to which guides are focused solely on exam preparation? Have the new regulations on awarding body training seminars for school and college staff, introduced in September 2013, suitably addressed concerns raised around conduct at such events?*  
**Andrew Freeman**, Associate Publisher, Collins Learning, HarperCollins Publishers  
**Geoff Hurst**, Managing Director, Altain Education  
**Dr Harriet Jones**, Director, Pre-University Skills programme, University of East Anglia  
**Darren Northcott**, National Official, Education, NASUWT  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.00 - 11.05 **Chairman's closing remarks**  
**Baroness Perry of Southwark**, Vice-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Education
- 11.05 - 11.30 Coffee
- 11.30 - 11.35 **Chairman's opening remarks**  
**Sarah Maughan**, Director of Research, National Foundation for Educational Research
- 11.35 - 12.25 **Competition in the exams market: pricing, quality and information**  
*How well is competition between awarding bodies working; what impact is competition having on quality of exams and on holding down prices? Should Ofqual be given statutory powers to regulate the cost of exams? What information would be most useful for schools and colleges to have available to them so as to help compare and choose exam boards? How can Ofqual and Government reduce barriers for new entrants to the market and support the expansion of smaller awarding bodies? Should there be wider reform of the market, in light of suggestions for new ways of organising the system - such as the single syllabus proposal put forward by the Education Select Committee, a franchise system for each subject, or a single national body?*  
**Gareth Pierce**, Chief Executive, WJEC  
**Michael Ridge**, Director, Public Policy Practice, Frontier Economics  
**James Croft**, Director, Centre for Market Reform of Education  
**Malcolm Trobe**, Deputy General Secretary, ASCL  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.25 - 12.55 **England's exams system: changes and challenges**  
**Glenys Stacey**, Chief Regulator, Ofqual  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chairman's and Westminster Education Forum closing remarks**  
**Sarah Maughan**, Director of Research, National Foundation for Educational Research  
**Sean Cudmore**, Deputy Editor, Westminster Education Forum

Seminar supported by RM Results

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