

# Westminster Education Forum Keynote Seminar: Encouraging and supporting reading - next steps, policy options and school library provision in England

Timing: Morning, Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> February 2015

Venue: Sixty One Whitehall, London SW1A 2ET

Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Lord Davies of Oldham**, Member, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Literacy
- 9.05 - 9.20 **Library provision in England's primary and secondary schools**  
**Lord Tope**, Chair, Libraries All-Party Parliamentary Group
- 9.20 - 10.10 **School libraries - standards, resources and next steps for improvement**  
*What should be the priorities for schools, local authorities and school library services - individually and working together - to raise standards, increase usage and share best practice in library provision, particularly in the context of budgetary constraints for schools and communities? Where else might support come from to improve library provision in primary and secondary schools? Should library provision be made a statutory duty for schools as proposed by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Libraries; would embedding library provision in Ofsted's inspection framework incentivise schools to prioritise and improve library provision? In what ways can schools and colleges be helped to recruit qualified librarians and staff? How are school libraries adapting to cater to changing technologies such as increased use of the internet as a research resource and the rise in the use of e-books?*  
**Tricia Adams**, Director, School Library Association  
**Paul Walker**, Headteacher, Sidmouth Church of England Primary School, Devon and Chair, National Primary Heads  
**Councillor Nick Draper**, Cabinet Member, Community and Culture including libraries, Merton Council  
**Emma Hopkin**, Managing Director, Bloomsbury Children's and Educational Publishing  
**Helen Cleaves**, Librarian, Kingston Grammar School, Surrey  
Questions and comments from the floor with **Lord Tope**, Chair, Libraries All-Party Parliamentary Group
- 10.10 - 10.30 **Inspiring children to read from an early age**  
**John Dougherty**, Children's Author and Chair, Children's Writers and Illustrators Group  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.30 - 10.35 **Chair's closing remarks**  
**Lord Davies of Oldham**, Member, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Literacy
- 10.35 - 11.00 Coffee
- 11.00 - 11.05 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Baroness Jones of Whitchurch**, Shadow Spokesperson (Education), House of Lords
- 11.05 - 11.55 **Encouraging reading for pleasure - the new National Curriculum, trends in reading habits and supporting reading at home**  
*How will the uptake by schools of initiatives such as whole-school reading projects be encouraged and enabled to further promote the joy of reading? In what ways can teachers be supported to make best use of the freedoms presented by the new National Curriculum to allow any texts to be studied, provided they ensure that students study a broad range of literature? What impact has the increase in use of e-books had on the reading habits of pupils? How can schools be supported to overcome organisational barriers, and issues such as cost and lack of facilities, to widen the provision of a range of mediums for reading, and share best practice? In what ways can pupils be further encouraged to read out of school hours; should schools and local authorities promote and facilitate more out of hours library provision, particularly for disadvantaged pupils? What can schools do to involve parents in promoting reading and encouraging children to read at home?*  
**Viv Bird**, Chief Executive, Booktrust  
**Kate Pitman**, Idea Store Development Manager, Tower Hamlets Council  
**Barbara Band**, Immediate Past President, Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals  
**Jane Bass**, Headteacher, Powers Hall Academy, Essex  
**James Bell**, Director of Professional Services, Renaissance Learning  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.55 - 12.05 **Evaluating the impact and the effectiveness of the phonics Screening check**  
**Matt Walker**, Research Manager and Evaluation Lead, NFER
- 12.05 - 12.55 **Improving literacy in primary and secondary schools: teaching methods, assessment and supporting pupils with SEN**  
*What has been the impact so far of the Government's decision to encourage phonics as the main method used for teaching reading in primary schools? Should schools utilise a variety of teaching methods for reading, such as phonetics? What impact will the new National Curriculum and Key Stage 2 tests with a strict focus on spelling, punctuation and grammar have on raising literacy standards of all pupils? What are the most effective examples of secondary school 'literacy catchup' interventions, particularly those aimed disadvantaged pupils? How can government and local authorities help schools to use the increased literacy and numeracy catch-up premium funding to improve literacy levels of pupils that do not achieve a level 4 in reading by the end of Key Stage 2? In what ways can schools be helped to raise literacy standards amongst SEND pupils, particularly amongst dyslexic pupils? What would be the impact on improving literacy, resources and teacher training of the Government's decision to make pupils not achieving a grade C to continue studying English until the age of 18; should all pupils be made to study English until 18?*  
**Dr Andrew Davis**, Honorary Research Fellow, School of Education, Durham University  
**Sylvia Shepherd-Clarke**, Special Needs Consultant  
**Dr Jane Davis**, Director, City of Readers and Founding Director, The Reader Organisation  
**Associate Professor Alison Baverstock**, Founder, Reading Force  
Questions and comments from the floor with **Matt Walker**, Research Manager and Evaluation Lead, NFER
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Education Forum closing remarks**  
**Baroness Jones of Whitchurch**, Shadow Spokesperson (Education), House of Lords  
**Sean Cudmore**, Deputy Editor, Westminster Education Forum



Seminar supported by Renaissance Learning

