

## Westminster Education Forum Keynote Seminar:

### The future shape of England's school system - academies, free schools and accountability and policy options

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> October 2014

Venue: Millbank Tower, 21-24 Millbank, London SW1P 4QP



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Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Baroness Perry of Southwark**, Vice-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Education
- 9.05 - 9.30 **The changing landscape of England's school system**  
**Frank Green**, Schools Commissioner, Department for Education  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 - 10.20 **Free schools and academies: impact, demand and options for collaboration**  
*What has been the impact of the establishment of free schools in tackling the shortage of school places, particularly at primary level, and how have free schools and the expansion of the academies programme affected the demand for school places at maintained schools in their localities? How are free schools thus far contributing towards raising the overall quality of education provision across the board? In what ways is the expansion of academies affecting the provision of local authority services for maintained schools such as SEN provision, teacher recruitment and workforce development? What factors should be taken into consideration when assessing the demand for free schools? How can local authorities and maintained schools be supported in allocating school places for students of free schools, in the event of a closure of or a delay in the opening of a free school? In what ways can government and local authorities help encourage and incentivise collaboration between free schools, academies and maintained schools in order to promote collaborative teaching practices across the school system?*  
**Councillor Ralph Berry**, Lead Member for Children and Young People, Bradford Metropolitan District Council  
**Peter Kyles**, Principal, St Mary's Church of England Primary School, Herefordshire  
**Howard Lay**, Executive Head and Chief Executive, Samuel Ward Multi Academy Trust, Suffolk  
**Gary Phillips**, Headteacher, Lilian Baylis Technology School, London  
**Aidan Pettitt**, Member, Steering Committee, Anti Academies Alliance  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.20 - 10.25 **Chair's closing remarks**  
**Baroness Perry of Southwark**, Vice-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Education
- 10.25 - 10.50 Coffee
- 10.50 - 10.55 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Lord Griffiths of Burry Port**, Chairman, Central Foundation Schools of London
- 10.55 - 11.10 **Accountability and oversight across England's schools**  
**Tim Phillips**, Director, Education, National Audit Office
- 11.10 - 12.00 **Accountability and oversight of free schools and academies**  
*Will the introduction of new Regional Schools Commissioners address concerns raised about the accountability and oversight of free schools and academies? Are new proposed Headteacher Boards - boards of academy headteachers elected by other academies in their region to support and challenge the work of the Regional Schools Commissioners - likely to achieve the Government's aim of embedding local expertise in the accountability of academies and free schools? Should academies and free schools be obliged to teach the National Curriculum in light of calls to improve clarity and transparency of what is taught in schools? How should Government respond to concerns, raised by the Public Accounts Committee, around the financial oversight of Academies and its call for a 'fit and proper person test' for senior post-holders within schools? With a variety of school types with different structures of accountability co-existing in England's school system, is there a case for Labour's proposal for the creation of 'Directors of School Standards' - individuals to be appointed by councils from a list of candidates approved by the education secretary - to co-ordinate accountability of all schools on a local level? How successful has the ParentView system been; what other steps could be taken increase parental involvement in holding schools into account, especially in the event of a school being judged as inadequate? Amidst concerns raised about the transparency and the oversight of academy chains, should Ofsted be given power to inspect academy chains?*  
**Councillor Peter Downes**, Liberal Democrat Spokesperson, Children & Young People Committee, Cambridgeshire County Council  
**Amanda Brown**, Assistant Secretary, Employment Conditions and Rights, NUT  
**Hugh Greenway**, Managing Director, Elliot Foundation  
**Malcolm Trobe**, Deputy General Secretary, ASCL  
**Dominic Herrington**, Regional Schools Commissioner, South London and South East Region  
Questions and comments from the floor with **Tim Phillips**, Director, Education, National Audit Office
- 12.00 - 12.10 **Education system's response to the extension of school autonomy**  
**Ben Bryant**, Co-author, *The evolving education system in England: a "temperature check"* and Senior Consultant, Isos Partnership
- 12.10 - 12.55 **What next for England's schools system: academy freedoms, the role of local authorities and options for other providers**  
*What would be the likely impact of extending academy freedoms to all schools including on school funding, the National Curriculum, admissions policies and teacher pay and conditions? How are local authorities reshaping their educational role in light of the increased number of schools outside local authority control? With the example of the attempted expansion of existing grammar schools in Kent, is there a case for allowing new grammar schools to be opened where there is parental demand? How can fee-paying independent schools collaborate with other schools in a system with an increased diversity of school types? What would be the impact on the education sector of for-profit providers being allowed to operate state schools?*  
**Annaliese Briggs**, Education Research Fellow, Policy Exchange  
**Charlotte Marten**, Chair, Grammar School Heads Association  
**Steve Lancashire**, Chief Executive, REAch2 Academy Trust  
**John Fowler**, Policy Manager, Local Government Information Unit  
**Stephen Smith**, Secretary, Forum of Independent Day Schools  
Questions and comments from the floor with **Ben Bryant**, Co-author, *The evolving education system in England: a "temperature check"* and Senior Consultant, Isos Partnership
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Education Forum closing remarks**  
**Lord Griffiths of Burry Port**, Chairman, Central Foundation Schools of London  
**Sean Cudmore**, Deputy Editor, Westminster Education Forum