Westminster Education Forum and Westminster Media Forum policy conference:
Next steps for arts and music education in England
Timing: Morning, Wednesday, 3rd February 2027
*****Taking Place Online*****

Draft agenda subject to change

8.30 Registration

9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Baroness Keeley, Co-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Music Education; and Co-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Theatre

9.05 **Arts and music education in the reformed curriculum**
Simon Toyne, Executive Director, Music, David Ross Education Trust; and Curriculum Drafter, Music, Department for Education
Paula Briggs, CEO and Creative Director, AccessArt; and Curriculum Drafter, Art and Design, Department for Education
Questions and comments from the floor

9.50 **Curriculum reform, participation and the future of arts and music education**
Curriculum and Assessment Review and forthcoming curriculum consultation | the place of arts, music and drama within a broad and balanced curriculum | curriculum design and sequencing, including implications for timetabling and teachability | increasing participation and addressing barriers to engagement and progression | implementation across schools, trusts and different education settings | priorities for ensuring high quality arts, music and drama education for all learners | reform to Progress 8 and Attainment 8 and how creative subjects count in KS4 option choices | removal of the EBacc and recognition of creative technical awards | the place of drama and oracy within English teaching
Jennifer McKie, CEO, Music Mark
Sophie Leach, Deputy General Secretary, National Society for Education in Art and Design
Polly Simmonds, Director of Creative Learning, Polka Theatre
David Guy, Headteacher, Alderwood Primary School, Greenwich
Senior representative, secondary
Questions and comments from the floor

10.40 **Developing the National Centre for Arts Education - priorities for implementation and sector support**
Dr Steven Berryman, Executive Director, National Centre for Arts Education

10.50 **Accountability, inspection and evidencing enrichment**
Derri Burdon, CEO, Curious Minds

11.00 Questions and comments from the floor

11.20 **Chair's closing remarks**
Baroness Keeley, Co-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Music Education; and Co-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Theatre

11.25 Break

11.35 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian

11.40 **Improving participation, inclusion and access to cultural enrichment**
addressing disparities in access to arts and music education across schools, trusts and regions | approaches to reducing barriers facing disadvantaged children and young people and learners with SEND | variation in access to specialist teaching, facilities and extracurricular opportunities | developing accessible and engaging enrichment offers | affordability of instrumental tuition and pressure on remission schemes | cultural partnerships, music hubs and community engagement | opportunities arising from the National Youth Strategy, Every Child Can and the Enrichment Expansion Programme | coordination between schools, youth services and cultural organisations | funding for school-based enrichment | reliance on unpaid staff time | role of the National Centre for Arts Education in supporting specialist capacity and workforce development
Jacqui O'Hanlon MBE, Director, Creative Learning; and Deputy Executive Director, Royal Shakespeare Company
Senior speaker confirmed from **NEU**
Senior representative, school
Senior representative, SEND
Questions and comments from the floor

12.25 **Developing qualifications and skills pathways for the future creative workforce**
Senior representative, qualifications

12.35 **Qualifications, progression and pathways into creative careers**
post-16 qualification reform and the future mix and design of T Levels, V Levels and other creative qualifications | changing patterns of participation across A level, performing arts and vocational routes | progression into FE, HE, apprenticeships and employment | implications of qualification and funding reform for progression | employer engagement, careers guidance and two weeks' work experience for secondary pupils | aligning qualifications and skills pathways with the needs of the creative industries | priorities arising from the Creative Industries Sector Plan | broadening access to creative careers and employment opportunities | partnership-working between education providers, employers and cultural organisations | future priorities for creative skills policy and supporting the talent pipeline
Kevin O'Hare, Principal, Keighley College
Senior speaker confirmed from the **Independent Society of Musicians**
Senior representative, employer
Senior representative, school

12.55 Questions and comments from the floor

13.20 **Chair's and Westminster Forum Projects closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Forum Projects