**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
**Sarah Kilpatrick**, Deputy General Secretary, NEU; and Spokesperson, Arts and Minds Campaign
**Lisa Alberti,** CEO, Pinc Education Group
Senior representative, school
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