

January 2014



Happy New Year

We hope all our members had a calm and relaxing festive break



We are looking forward to events in 2014!

New year, new e-

We don't want to fill your inboxes with junk email and have promised to only send e-newsletters when there is news, but we felt there have been a number of developments that our members would want information about.

The new school year has only just begun and we are keen to ensure the journals and events reflect your needs. Feedback from the December e-newsletter was very positive with many members emailing to thank us for the embedded email format. We would still love to hear from you about articles you want to see in the journals and events that would benefit you.

Contents

- Bank of England conference
- Vocational qualifications - 16-19 performance tables
- Wolf review – Progress report
- Confederation of British Industry (CBI) report - First Steps: A new approach to our schools. End of year report.
- March TeachMeet – join in person or remotely



Tuesday 1st July 2014

Bank of England Conference

This one-day conference will consider the fragile recovery, current stance of UK monetary policy and the outlook for the economy, including businesses. Speakers will include representatives from the Bank of England, Business and Education. We have had interest from the **Department for Business Innovation and Skills** to speak at the event and are keen to get members to attend.

The sessions will provide perspectives on the nature of current economic problems, the policy responses available and the implications for the teaching of Economics and Business Studies. For further details and to book go to [the website](#)

Level 3 vocational qualifications for 16- to 19-year-olds: 2016 performance tables

The government's **consultation response** on 16 to 19 Vocational Qualification Reform will mean that in future only high value vocational qualifications will be reported in school and college performance tables. Qualifications taught from September 2014 and reported in the 2016 performance tables will be categorised as either **technical level or applied general qualifications**.

Technical level qualifications (which lead to recognised occupations, for example in engineering, IT, accounting or professional cookery) have the public support of a professional body or 5 employers that represent the sector involved and are at least the size of an A level.

Technical level qualifications that meet these requirements will count towards the new **technical baccalaureate measure** which is being introduced at the same time as these changes.

Applied general qualifications (that provide a broader study of a vocational area) have the public backing of three universities and are at least the size of an AS level.

All qualifications that have been approved for 16 to 19 teaching are available online.

The Wolf Report – A Progress Report Nov 2013



The Secretary of State asked Professor Alison Wolf to carry out an independent review of vocational education. The **'Wolf review of Vocational Education'** published in March 2011, has considered how the DfE can improve vocational education for 14 to 19 year-olds and promote successful progression into the work and into higher level education and training routes.

The government published its **formal response to the Wolf review** on 12 May 2011.

The strong link between the reform of vocational qualifications and the Wolf Report published in 2010 is evidenced in a **progress report** that has just been published by the DfE.

In line with Professor Wolf's recommendations, in future, only qualifications which are high quality, rigorous and enable progression to a range of study and employment opportunities will be recognised in school performance tables for 14 - to 16 year-olds.

From 2014 the headline performance tables measures will:

- reform equivalences – one qualification will count for one
- only include qualifications that are larger than GCSEs in size.

The 2014 performance tables (to be reported in early 2015) will include only qualifications that are on the **list**. Each qualification will count as equivalent to no more than one GCSE.



6th March 2014, 430-6pm

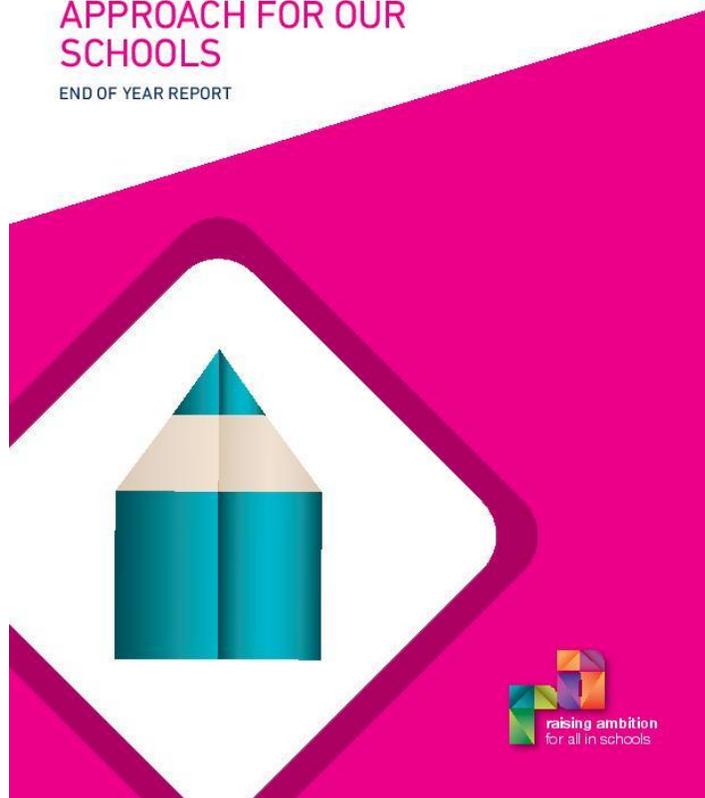
Are you attending the TeachMeet in person or remotely?

A twilight session focused on Business and Economics. Short, sharp presentations from practitioners giving effective ideas that have worked in their classrooms. Professional development input and resources linked to businesses.

If you are interested in attending this event in person or remotely please email your interest to: debbie.dean@ebee.org.uk
log on details will be sent once registered.

FIRST STEPS: A NEW APPROACH FOR OUR SCHOOLS

END OF YEAR REPORT



CBI – End of Year Report

Much has happened since the CBI (Confederation of British Industry) launched 'First Steps: a new approach for our schools' in November 2012. The recently released [End of Term Report](#) details progress against the five steps contained in [First Steps: a new approach for our schools](#).

Step 1: Develop a clear statement of the outcomes that all schools should deliver

Step 2: Empower school leaders and teachers

Step 3: Close the attainment gap at primary

Step 4: Align the curriculum and examinations at secondary with the desired outcomes

Step 5: Encourage and incentivise business engagement

The summary in the report was that some progress has been made in key areas. But, overall, ministers must try harder.

Government needs to tackle the fundamental issue – specifying the outcomes we all want and then ensuring that schools are held accountable for how they deliver these outcomes via new-style Ofsted narrative reports and inspections. These should be equally rigorous, just more broadly-based than the current system.

Without this, the piecemeal tactical changes we have seen over the last twelve months will fail to deliver – for the economy, for business and, most importantly, for young people themselves.

