

White Paper: The Importance of Teaching

24 November 2010

Teaching Schools

The Government is planning to develop a national network of Teaching Schools to lead the training of new teachers. I am unsure of how they propose to select these but I certainly hope to put a case for Haydon to be considered. I am lucky enough to have an outstanding staff, many of who have been trained on site.

Behaviour

As you know, Haydon has a strong and clear Behaviour for Learning Policy, but I welcome the proposals to support the school in improving further by strengthening the school's authority in dealing with misbehaving and disruptive students.

Curriculum and Qualifications

There will be a review of the National Curriculum reducing the prescribed element.

There will also be an English Baccalaureate. A new measure of the success and effectiveness of a school to go alongside the 5A* to C including English and Maths measure. The government is emphasising the importance of language teaching and this is to be welcomed. The Baccalaureate will include English, mathematics, the sciences, a modern or ancient foreign language and a humanity. There will be a Baccalaureate Certificate for those who achieve an A* to C grade in this combination of subjects.

There will also be a review of Vocational Education led by Professor Alison Wolf of King's College, London to report in the spring of 2011. This could have a significant impact on Haydon as we run a large and varied programme of vocational subjects so that our curriculum meets the needs of all of our students. The Government does make it clear that there is a future for Vocational Education, but what that future will be will not be known until 2011.

There will be a review of GCSE and A Level assessment. The intention is to reduce the number of re-sits that students are allowed to take at AS and A2. At GCSE the intention is to return the exam from the modular system which has just been introduced, to a system where the exams are 'typically taken only at the end of a course'

The leaving age at which students can leave education or training will be 17 in 2013 and 18 in 2015.

Funding

The introduction of a pupil premium for the education of deprived students is likely to have a negative effect on Haydon as we have relatively few students in this category.

They also intend to end the disparity in funding for 16-18 year olds, so that schools and colleges are funded at the same levels as one another. This is likely to have a negative effect on Haydon's budget as we have a very large and successful sixth form and colleges are funded less favourably than school sixth forms. . Information in the times Educational Supplement on 26.11.10 indicates that we would lose somewhere in the region of £140,000+p a by 2015. It is unclear how this change will be phased in.

There is also an intention to create a new common funding formula but the effect of this on Haydon is unclear at the moment.

I have tried to pick out the points in the White Paper that are likely to have most impact on Haydon, some positive and some negative. The document is 81 pages long and there is a huge amount of extra information. Please follow the link if you wish to study the complete document

(www.education.gov.uk/schools/teachingandlearning/schoolswhitepaper/b0068570/the-importance-of-teaching)

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