Making learning work
lsnlearning.org.uk

Academies to increase flexibility for 14-19 year olds

Emeritus Professor Andrew Miller, University of Middlesex, representing the

Learning & Skills Network

Making learning work
lsnlearning.org.uk

Coalition Agreement (page 29)

Increased flexibility

‘We will improve the quality of vocational education, including increasing flexibility for 14–19 year olds and creating new Technical Academies as part of our plans to diversify schools provision’.

Making learning work
lsnlearning.org.uk

Michael Gove (speech to the Edge Foundation 9/9/10)

Practical education

"For many years our education system has failed properly to value practical education, choosing to give far greater emphasis to purely academic achievements. This has left a gap in the country's skills base and, as a result, a shortage of appropriately trained and educated young people to fulfil the needs of our employers".

Making learning work
lsnlearning.org.uk

Michael Gove (op cit)

Critique

- failure after 1944 to develop technical schools
- unique nature of craft skills ignored by 'pseudo-academic' qualifications
- qualifications driven by political agenda not employers
- 2004 22,500 VQs taken in schools rising to 540,000 by 2009 a product of league tables

Making learning work
lsnlearning.org.uk

Wolf review of vocational education (report Spring 2011)

The review will report on:

- **Organisation including: institutional arrangements, the role of the third sector, training providers, employers and awarding bodies**
- **Funding mechanisms including who bears the costs?**
- **Progression routes**
- **Best international practice**
- **Recommendations <u>taking into account financial constraints</u>**

Making learning work
lsnlearning.org.uk

Wolf review of vocational education

Consultation questions

- ***How can we improve the organisation of VE for 14-19 year olds?***
- ***What is the appropriate target audience and starting age for VE?***
- ***What principles should underpin the content, structure and teaching methods? (to respond to current and future labour market needs)***
- ***How can we improve progression from VE to positive destinations?***

Making learning work
lsnlearning.org.uk

Michael Gove (August 2010)

Vocational starting age of 14

"I'm absolutely clear that every child should have the option of beginning study for a craft or trade from the age of 14 but that this should by complemented by a base of core academic knowledge".

Making learning work
lsnlearning.org.uk

University Technical Schools

(Baker Dearing Educational Trust)

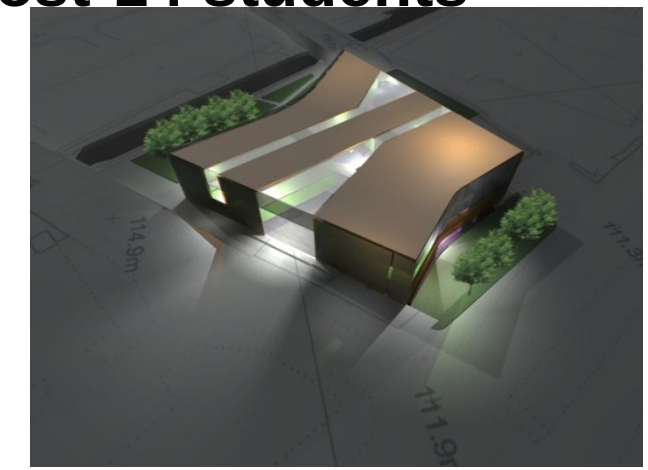
- minimum of 12 UTCs in major cities – first Aston in Birmingham
- 14-19 institutions – transfer at 14
- HE partnership
- relatively small student numbers 500-800

- practical, technical education reflecting HEI's specialism
- business enterprise skills and ICT
- core curriculum

Source

Aston University Engineering Academy, Birmingham

- ❑ New Build for September 2012 600 post-14 students
- ❑ Engineering Employer Federation to locate their apprenticeship training facility within the Academy
- ❑ All students to have industrial sponsor and university engineering student mentor
- ❑ Problem based learning led by industrial partners
- ❑ International School partners China /Germany/US/New Z



What qualifications will students be studying 14-16?

- Engineering Diploma and ICT Diploma
- English
- Maths,
- Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Business, Multi-media, Design –as specialist learning within the Diploma
- German or Mandarin
- History of Science/Technology

Making learning work
lsnlearning.org.uk

JCB Academy curriculum

KS4

- All take Engineering & Business Diploma
- GCSEs in Maths (at least) 2 Sciences, MFL, Eng, ICT
- Citizenship, CEG, PSHE, PE, Enterprise

Post-16

- Advanced Diplomas in Engineering, Business, Manufacturing and Product Design
- A levels to complement Diplomas (with partner school)

Source:

Making learning work
lsnlearning.org.uk

Studio Schools (www.studioschoolstrust.org)

- ❑ Kirklees and Luton schools and more in the pipeline
- ❑ model for 14-19 free schools
- ❑Small – 300 optimum number of students
- ❑ Multi-disciplinary learning

- ❑ Practical focus using enterprise type projects in the local community
- ❑employability key and 'real' work experience including paid work for over 16s

Source

Making learning work
lsnlearning.org.uk

Is the future vocational? - NO

Negatives

- ***Collapse of 14-19 partnerships, EBLOs and arrangements for local collaboration***
- ***Further undermining of diplomas leading to decline in confidence among teachers, students and parents***
- ***Lack of funding to expand Young Apprenticeship programme and UTCs***
- ***Cost of vocational courses leads academies to focus on traditional curriculum***
- ***End of statutory requirement for enterprise and WRL at KS4***

Making learning work
lsnlearning.org.uk

New increased flexibility? YES

Positives

- ❑ **Government *enthusiasm* *for practical and technical education & particular support for Young Apprenticeships***
- ❑ ***Support for new 14-19 institutions including FE colleges offering ft 14-16 curriculum***
- ❑ ***Increased curriculum flexibility for schools and their partners, e.g. to offer more vocational programmes***
- ❑ ***Development of strong local partnerships to deliver vocational learning often the Diploma***
- ❑ ***Pupil premium could support vocational programmes***

Making learning work
lsnlearning.org.uk

Academies and vocational education

Academies should:

- ❑ ***Put the needs and interests of learners first in planning curriculum provision***
- ❑ ***Recognise when they do not have the staff or facilities to offer good practical and technical courses***
- ❑ ***Support local collaborative efforts to provide practical technical education including partnerships with FE and UTCs***
- ❑ ***Use the pupil premium to fund suitable vocational provision***