



PRESS RELEASE

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Many would agree that Further Education is moving into uncharted waters. This academic year, 2015/16 sees some seismic changes to the way FE institutions are expected to function, not least because of the need to respond to:

- a government agenda revolving around learner choice and aspiration
- a new common inspection framework which ratchets up the emphasis on teaching and learning, employability, English and maths, personal development and responsive provision
- the implementation of the PREVENT agenda
- significant adult spending cuts which has wiped out up to 20% of income for some colleges
- the pressures and challenges of managing GCSE provision for 16-19 learners who have already failed these qualifications once after 5 years of schooling
- local area reviews which predict a massive rationalisation of college provision at the same time as allowing private training providers increasing access to the FE market

The Newbubbles 4th National Conference for Further Education entitled 'Leading Aspiration' presents a mouth-watering opportunity to discuss and challenge the current trajectory with leading thinkers in educational reform.

Joining the conference is Tony Blair's former chief education adviser, Lord Andrew Adonis, who masterminded the academisation of state secondary schools under Labour, and now turns his attention to the reform agenda set for Further Education and gives his honest appraisal of the way forward.

Natalie Bennett, leader of the Green Party, and impassioned speaker on post-16 education issues, offers an alternative perspective on government priorities and the competition agenda driving reform. Professor Alison Fuller, reviews the state of government policy and poses different future scenarios that may make for uncomfortable listening, but which may hold the key to new survival strategies.

Nick Lindford, delivers tough messages on forthcoming changes to FE funding, whilst Dr Matt O'Leary and Dr Jim Crawley openly critique the state of teacher training and development with David Russell, the Education & Training Foundation's Chief Executive.

Our audience has been driving the conference agenda from the very start, with today's important questions being put to conference for analysis. An extraordinary line-up of academics, commentators, best-selling authors and FE principals', alongside former and current senior OFSTED voices, have been gathered together in one room to put the state of Further Education and teacher development in the spotlight. Presentations, workshops and question sessions ensure that delegates will be able to interact with conference experts and have their say in the Big Reform Conversation.

The Conference will be held in **London Heathrow** on **Thursday 24th March 2016**. It is hosted by Newbubbles Ltd, a specialist private training provider of post-compulsory education.

The event has been created for Senior Managers, Heads of Department, Teacher Trainers, Coaches and Course Leaders seeking inspiration and answers. It also reaches out to university academics, private training providers and local authorities who have important stakes in the FE arena. This is a chance to have a voice about the nature and pace of change, how to nurture, support and propel aspiration, and discuss better ways to project the success of a sector in need of public and government support.