

ALWAYS  
LEARNING

# Policy 'hot breakfast' briefing

## Schools policy

Steve Besley, 09.03.15

# Current policy picture

- No seismic shift in policy direction
- Broad consensus on the importance of school standards, English/maths, apprenticeships, closing the gap
- Less agreement on school brands, 14-19 curriculum changes, school funding
- Standards not structures?
- A new way to do curriculum reform?
- Economic argument and funding never very far away
- But softer tone generally

# Three current issues

1. What's going to happen to the post-2010 qualification reform programme?
2. Just what does funding protection mean?
3. How will the school system look after 2015?

# Current policy picture

## Conservatives

- Flat cash increase, shift towards national funding formula
- Use of school reform as a 'weapon' in drive on school standards
- Sharp focus on Eng/maths performance through from KS2 to KS5
- Use of data and system reforms to create more accountable system
- New deal for teachers and support for College of Teaching
- Gradual implementation of qualification reforms
- Development of vocational routes

## Lib-Dems

- Protected funding to 19
- Mastery of basics of English and maths with an aim to eradicate illiteracy by 2025
- Establish an independent ESA and introduce a minimum curriculum entitlement
- Guarantee all teachers in state schools to be fully qualified or working towards
- Abolish RSCs in favour of local HTBs
- Support apprenticeships, 'improve' the quality of vocational education
- Young Person's Discount Card

## Labour

- Protected funding to 19
- Cap class sizes for 5,6,7 year olds
- Establish a new Standards Challenge for every area, enable parents to call in local DSS
- All teachers to be qualified, a new College of Teaching set up and new Master Teacher status created
- No more Free Schools and academy freedoms extended to all eligible schools
- More balanced curriculum including creativity, citizenship and preparation for 21<sup>st</sup> c
- Work experience at 14, 'revolution in apprenticeships, new gold standard Tech Bacc

# So the future is?

## Five things pretty much lined up:

- Further reform of the profession
- Implementation of new accountability measures
- Changes to inspection to arrangements
- Extension of school autonomy
- Further vocational reform

## Four things that might make a comeback:

- 14-19 Diplomas
- Advanced Skills Teachers
- TVEI
- London

## Three things gathering momentum:

- Incorporation of pupil health, welfare and esteem within the curriculum
- A social networking model of careers and guidance
- A digitalised pupil learning and progress record

## Two things that need sorting out:

- National funding formula
- Oversight of the school system

## One wild card:

- A Schools Curriculum Council