



Closing the Attainment Gap to Level Up

Thursday 19th May 2022 | 10am – 11.30m | Wilson Room, Portcullis House

Agenda

09:45 – 10:00 **Registration**

10:00 – 10:05 **Welcome and opening remarks**

Natalie Perera
Chief Executive, EPI

10:05 – 10:10 **Opening remarks**

Russell Hobby
Chief Executive, Teach First

10:10 – 10:25 **Keynote speech**

Lord O'Neill of Gatley
Vice Chair, Northern Powerhouse
Partnership

10:25 – 10:35 **Keynote speech**

Senior Official
Department for Levelling Up, Housing and
Communities (invited)

10:35 – 11:30 **Panel discussion**

Chaired by Natalie Perera

Fariyah Alam
Deputy Headteacher, Buile Hill Academy

Leora Cruddas
Chief Executive, Confederation of Schools
Trusts

Russell Hobby
Chief Executive, Teach First

Lord O'Neill of Gatley
Vice Chair, Northern Powerhouse
Partnership

Will Tanner
Director, Onward

Speakers

Farihah Alam

Deputy Headteacher
Buile Hill Academy



Farihah is a Deputy Headteacher in Salford, Greater Manchester. Prior to working in the North West, Farihah worked in a number of high-performing academies and free schools in London.

Farihah is also a governor for a primary school in Manchester and sits on an advisory group for Equality and Diversity for a multi-academy trust.

Leora Cruddas CBE

Chief Executive
Confederation of School Trusts



Leora Cruddas is Chief Executive of the Confederation of School Trusts – the national organisation and sector body for school trusts in England. She has advised successive governments and sits on several DfE Advisory Bodies.

She was recently the vice chair of the Head Teacher Standards Review Group. Prior to founding CST, she was Director of Policy and Public Relations for the Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL). Leora has six years of experience as a Director of Education in two London Local Authorities. She is Visiting Professor at UCL Institute of Education.

Leora was awarded a CBE in the New Year's Honours, 2022.

Russell Hobby CBE

CEO
Teach First



Russell joined Teach First as CEO in September 2017, building on more than 15 years developing and promoting leadership in schools. Prior to joining Teach First, Russell was General Secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) and before that worked as a management consultant, helping found Hay Group's education practice.

Russell serves as a trustee of Fair Education Alliance and Teach for All UK Charity Board, as well as participating as a Community Board Member for Digital Poverty Alliance. Russell recently joined the Education Committee at the Royal Society.

Russell was awarded a CBE in the New Year Honours List 2022.

Lord O'Neill of Gatley

Vice Chair

Northern Powerhouse Partnership



Lord O'Neill is a British economist, former Commercial Secretary to the Treasury and former Chief Economist at Goldman Sachs.

He is Chair of Chatham House and Northern Gritstone, as well as a trustee of education charity SHINE.

Natalie Perera

Chief Executive

Education Policy Institute



Natalie is the Chief Executive of the Education Policy Institute, an independent research institute which she co-founded in 2016.

Prior to that, Natalie worked in the Department for Education where she led on research and policy interventions including on narrowing the gap between disadvantaged children and the rest and reform of the school funding system. Between 2014 and 2015, Natalie was seconded to the Cabinet Office where she worked in the Deputy Prime Minister's Office.

Natalie is also a Director of a Multi-Academy Trust in South London and a Trustee of the charities, The Fair Education Alliance and Causeway Education.

Will Tanner

Director

Onward



Will Tanner is Onward's Director, having established the organisation with Neil O'Brien MP, Danny Finkelstein, Martyn Rose and Nick Faith in May 2018. In that time, he has authored a number of influential policy reports, including: *The Politics of Belonging* (2019); *The Policies of Belonging* (2021); *No Turning Back* (2020); *The State of our Social Fabric* (2020) and *State of the Union* (2021).

Before Onward, Will advised Prime Minister Theresa May between 2013 and 2017, as a Special Adviser in the Home Office and as Deputy Head of Policy in 10 Downing Street. He has also previously worked for the leading communications firm, Portland Communications, and for the independent thinktank, Reform.

Will writes regularly for national media outlets. In addition to a regular column in the *i Newspaper*, he has recently written for the *Financial Times*, *The Times*, *The Guardian* and *Politico*.

Delegates

Job Title	Organisation
Policy Officer	Academies Enterprise Trust
CEO	Action Tutoring
Policy Analyst	AQA
CEO	Ark Schools
Head of Policy	ASCL
Senior Policy Manager, Adult Education	Association of Colleges
Public Affairs Officer	Association of Colleges
Vice President, Business Development	BYJU's
Consulting Partner, Education and Learning	Capita Plc
Director General for Covid-19 Response and Schools Recovery	Department for Education
Head of Education Recovery Strategy	Department for Education
Head of Unity, School Improvement and System Leadership	Department for Education
Head of Project Expansion - Opportunity Areas Programme	Department for Education
Deputy Director, Disadvantage & Place	Department for Education
Education Services Director	Education Development Trust
Director of Impact	Education Endowment Foundation
Director of Partnerships, Events and Communications	Education Policy Institute
Partnerships and Events Manager	Education Policy Institute
Executive and Events Officer	Education Policy Institute
Associate Director, Social Mobility and Vulnerable Learners	Education Policy Institute
Head of Communications and Public Affairs	Education Support
Deputy Head (Partnerships)	Eton College
Co-CEO	Fair Education Alliance
Reporter	Financial Times
Senior Education Advisor	Future Academies
Head of Teacher Supply	Gatsby Foundation
Lords Education Spokesperson	House of Lords
Chief Risk Officer	IG
Founding Principal	Mulberry Schools Trust
Chief Strategy Officer	NCFE
Research Director: Optimal Pathways Development	NFER
Senior Staffer	Northern Powerhouse Partnership
Director of External Relations	Oak Academy
Head of Media and External Relations	Oak Academy
Policy and Partnerships Director	Oxford University Press



Reporter	PA Media
Senior Vice President	Pearson
Deputy Head of Advisory	Premier Advisory Group
Partner	Public First
Reporter	Reach PLC
Consultancy Manager	Renaissance Learning
Managing Director	Renaissance Learning
Programme Manager, Teacher Supply	Royal Society of Chemistry
National management trainee	Slough Borough Council
Executive Director of Engagement	Teach First
Head of Public Affairs	Teach First
Public Affairs Officer	Teach First
Public Affairs Officer	Teach First
Director of External Relations	Teach First
Trainee Geography Teacher	Teach First
Director of Communications	Tes Global
Public Affairs and Communications Officer	The Brilliant Club
Political Consultant	The Dods Group
Reporter	The Guardian
Headteacher	The Henrietta Barnett School
Reporter	The I paper
Senior Policy and Public Affairs Manager	The Prince's Trust
Policy Advisor (Education)	The Royal Society
Reporter	The Times
Public Affairs and Campaigns Manager	UCAS
MSc Student in Comparative and International Education	University of Oxford
Reporter	Yorkshire Post