



## From Rachael Campey, Chief Executive

FEdS enters a new era from Monday 27 June, with the launch of our new-look website: [www.feds.co.uk](http://www.feds.co.uk).

FEdS has always been a unique network providing unique resources and opportunities for its members. Now we want to build on that by creating a stimulating online forum for debate and comment; along with easier access to intelligence, news, events and contacts.

With your support, we hope the site will evolve to extend and develop FEdS' collaborative and communications work. Getting time to reflect, understand and develop new approaches has never been more important. That's why we have redesigned our website to ensure we add value to our networking. We want to put the spotlight on what our members are thinking and **doing**, and give them every opportunity to gain new ideas, solutions, intelligence and contacts.

I would also like to invite members to share their news and views in an online members' forum discussion which we hope to launch shortly; and via specially-commissioned blogs, interviews and articles.

A key benefit of membership will be free access to FEdS' online library of reports, briefings and forums, and continued free admission to most of our networking events, which you will soon be able to book online. Please do check out the website. We'll be posting information about our autumn events during the summer (see over).

I'd value your feedback and if you're not sure about your login password to the members' site do get in touch with [coral.rayfield@feds.co.uk](mailto:coral.rayfield@feds.co.uk). Happy surfing!

## The National Curriculum review: a fundamentally different approach

**A seminar with newly-knighted Sir David Bell, Permanent Secretary at the Department for Education, gave FEdS members insight into this government's political philosophy and how it will apply to the National Curriculum, currently under review.**

Changing the National Curriculum is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to think about what we value as a society, and is rightly controversial. This government does not believe in the activism of the previous administration and is changing the culture from one of 'requirement' to one of 'nudge'.

Education Secretary Michael Gove is determined that the new National Curriculum should focus only on core content and should stack up against the best in the world. Teachers will decide how that content should be taught, and how necessary skills and attributes should be developed. It is assumed that good head teachers will continue to offer a broad and enriching curriculum to all their students, and that autonomous Academies will 'track' the National Curriculum, as most do now.

It is clear that we have to approach this government's policy with a very different mindset from the past – one that we will perhaps struggle to adopt.

A full FEdS paper has been circulated to members and will be available in the members area of the website. For more information, contact: [coral.rayfield@feds.co.uk](mailto:coral.rayfield@feds.co.uk)

## New FEdS website launched

**FEdS has taken an exciting step forward with the launch of its new website.**

The aim is to provide a proper 'showcase' for FEdS and its activities, as well as an important resource for members. The website will help us to build on FEdS strengths as a collaborative community and to attract new members.

All visitors to the website will be able to view latest news, information about events and a regular blog. There is a list of FEdS members, as well information about our extensive network of expert associates.

FEdS members have password-protected access to a 'library' containing a full archive of the monthly *Briefings* for the UK and for Scotland, seminar papers and policy updates.

It will soon be possible to book places on FEdS seminars and other events through the website. And we will soon be launching a regular discussion forum for members.

**Go to [www.feds.co.uk](http://www.feds.co.uk) and see for yourself!**

## Events that matter

We are planning a new programme of events for the autumn looking at issues such as governance in the 'Big Society'; 'learning to earning'; and the forthcoming higher education White Paper.

We have recently had two stimulating seminars on skills funding and on the national curriculum review. Members have had the opportunity to debate issues that matter to them with the people that matter.

Now is the time to let FEdS have your thoughts about topics or issues you would like to know more about and the leaders and influencers that you would like to meet.

We'll be posting more information on our website during the summer. Please do contact [feds@feds.co.uk](mailto:feds@feds.co.uk) or email Rachael direct to discuss further: [rachael.campey@feds.co.uk](mailto:rachael.campey@feds.co.uk). We welcome your views.

## Enterprising young people

**After sponsoring the Grampian regional events of Young Enterprise Scotland for five years, FEdS member BP agreed to become lead sponsor of the 2011 National Awards.**

The finals, involving 17 inspirational young businesses, were held on 15 June at Hampden Park, Glasgow. The winners from Farr High School will represent Scotland in the UK finals in July at the Savoy Hotel London.

## News...news...news...news...news...news...news...

- The Communities & Local Government Select Committee report on the government's localism agenda for England finds that the principle of localism commands cross-party support, but that its approach thus far has been marked by "inconsistency and incoherence". The definition of localism is "extremely elastic", which has allowed departments to adapt it to suit their own policy aims. The new Minister for Decentralisation, Greg Clark, should bring greater coherence, rigour and sense of priorities.
- Ofsted has found that business and enterprise courses in English schools are giving students too little practical understanding of business and are being assessed against criteria that are too narrowly defined. Inspectors found good examples of schools using real-life economic and business examples in lessons, but a third of secondary schools were failing to provide good opportunities for students to engage directly with local businesses.
- The Department for Education has received 281 bids to open free schools in England in the second round of applications, including 37 proposals for university technical colleges (UTCs). 323 applications were made in the first round, of which 12 are due to open in September.
- The Scottish Government has set up a review of university governance arrangements. A five-member panel, chaired by Prof Ferdinand von Prondzynski, Principal of Robert Gordon University, will publish its remit before the summer recess, invite comments over the summer and report its conclusions at the end of the year.
- The Higher Education Funding Council for Wales has told all 10 Welsh universities and 4 of the country's colleges that it won't endorse their requests to charge higher tuition fees next year unless they rewrite their plans to encourage more disadvantaged young people to take up places.
- The organisation to be formed on 1 July by the merger of HM Inspectorate of Education and Learning & Teaching Scotland is to be called Education Scotland.

All these stories and more will feature in the next FEdS Briefings due early July.

## Members' News

**Richard Dealtry, FEdS Associate is chairing the 6-event *Evolving Corporate Universities (ECU)* international webinar series, as well as 2-day Forum events in Dubai, Singapore and Zurich.**

Richard is Chairman of the Global Association of Corporate Universities and Enterprise Academies (G-ACUA). Details of the series can be accessed at <http://www.g-acua.org/>.

If you wish to contribute your ideas and thinking to the further evolution of this rapidly-growing, business development platform via the webinar series events or the International Forum events please register as soon as possible.

**The Chartered Insurance Institute (CII) has published a paper calling for the government to go beyond process-driven financial regulation.**

In *A new approach to financial regulation – embedding professionalism*, the CII outlines how we should learn from recent experience, which clearly shows that the culture of a firm, not its processes, lies at the core of how a firm behaves and treats its customers.

You can view the paper here: <http://www.cii.co.uk/pages/research/persinprofessionalism.aspx>

**NESTA has held a seminar on New York's Innovation zone.**

You can view a video of '*Transforming education for one million students*': [http://www.nesta.org.uk/home1/assets/events/transforming\\_education\\_for\\_one\\_million\\_students](http://www.nesta.org.uk/home1/assets/events/transforming_education_for_one_million_students)

You can also read all the comments from the event, and add your own by searching on Twitter for #nycizone.

**If you have an item for this column, please send it to Elaine Hendry at: [elaine@emhconnect.co.uk](mailto:elaine@emhconnect.co.uk)**