

Comprehensive Future

The campaign for fair admissions

2 September 2009

PRESS RELEASE

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Start

Selection at 11 could be phased out within the next ten years. Comprehensive Future, the campaign for fair admissions, is launching a pamphlet today that spells out how this could be done without disruption to any children's education, to parents and teachers or any significant expenditure. No school need to close or any child move school. Ballot regulations should be scrapped and instead a target date set by which time all schools are non-selective. All that is needed, the campaign says, is a Government with the political courage to end it.

Launching the pamphlet Fiona Millar, chair of Comprehensive Future, said - *Our intention is to provoke discussion about how the 11 plus could be phased out. The last few months have already seen an increase in the level of interest in the relationship between admission policies, pupil achievement, social mobility and community cohesion. As a non party political campaign Comprehensive Future has produced this pamphlet as a constructive contribution to this growing public debate in the run up to a general election.*

Comprehensive Future is keen to hear the views of parents, pupils, students, governors, school staff, education officers and politicians in response to the pamphlet.

End

Notes

1. Comprehensive Future is the campaign for fair school admission policies in England. The campaign is non party political and open to all. By lobbying Government, providing evidence, informing the media and supporting local campaigns on admissions we aim to bring about a comprehensive secondary school system in England with fair admissions criteria to all publicly funded schools and an end to selection by ability and aptitude. Our supporters include school staff and governors, parents, members of both Houses of Parliament, local councillors, academics and other public figures who share a commitment to equality of opportunity within our education system.

2. The pamphlet is being sent to all MPs, headteachers in the most selective local authorities and to cabinet members for education, Children's services directors and admission forums in the 36 English local authorities where there are grammar schools.
3. Comprehensive Future will be holding a fringe meeting at the Labour conference to publicise the pamphlet on Tuesday 29 September 5.45 pm Lowy Suite, Brighton Best Western, Brighton (on the seafront opposite West Pier – outside security) Speakers include Melissa Benn, journalist and Comprehensive Future steering group member; A parliamentary seminar will follow on October 20th.
4. Contacts - Fiona Millar Chair 07979 530861; Paul Holmes MP Vice Chair 07719 092877 Margaret Tulloch Secretary 020 8947 5758, 07836 741974; Melissa Benn 020 7624 4529,077907 98355

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