



“It is time for a national, rational debate on how we help our young people succeed. It sounds simple... We should take ownership... educational leadership, businesses, young people, parents and politicians – people who understand education and want our country to succeed”

Paul Dreschler, President of CBI

+ Why do we need a Big Education Conversation?

The OECD has identified England as an international outlier- doing more rote learning than any other member state. Education systems that political leadership from all our parties like to highlight - Finland, British Columbia, Singapore among others- have refocused their system to be broader, to focus on wider attributes as well as knowledge, in a bid to be globally competitive. We feel there is the need to ask: how well we are preparing young people for their future?

+ So what is it?

There is urgent need for a rational, informed debate on how we help our young people succeed. We believe there is a value in people coming together and having meaningful conversations as a precursor to wider action and collaboration.

We aim to support these conversations up and down the country- with civil society groups, business, parents and carers, educators and politicians. Some will be small, some will be big. It could be in a conference centre or a coffee house, in parliament or in a pub. The guiding principle is that conversation matters. It is needed to inspire positive action in order to better prepare young people for their future.

+ How do I get involved?

In short, we're still working that bit out. We're in early phases of exploring the possibilities and the scope of Big Education Conversations. So if you have any ideas, tell us! We want to hear from anyone with an interest or expertise to share- as a volunteer, a funder, a host or a guest.

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