

ADVANCING WITH THE **TSARS**

Since Nicky Morgan took the office of education secretary she has appointed several “experts” – lovingly named tsars by the headline-writers – and convened several expert working groups each tasked with creating a specific product.

Keeping track of the expert groups, though, is proving tricky. With at least two delayed, three yet to declare members, and a new one announced on Sunday, we thought it was time to examine the constellation of tsars and determine what they suggest for the future

THE **TSARS**



DAVID WESTON

Former physics teacher David Weston created the Teacher Development Trust in reaction to poor training practices he saw during his eight years in schools.

In an interview with *Schools Week* earlier this year he also said he was prompted by naivety: “I just thought it was going to be a really easy thing to do and people would give money because it was just such a good cause!”

His hard work paid off, however, and he gradually developed sustainable teaching models and created a programme for teachers to learn from one another.

Weston has also been a leading voice in the call for a new College of Teaching.

Announced in March as head of a new expert group for professional development standards in schools, a consultation is currently out and will report back early next year.



TOM BENNETT

The most famed of the DfE’s new experts, Tom Bennett apparently told an interviewer “don’t call me a tsar”. The label immediately stuck.

Hitting headlines since his appointment in June, Bennett – a part-time teacher and founder of the researchEd conference series – has called for schools to force pupils to put their smartphones away, and not to be afraid of excluding children.

Before a decade in the classroom, Bennett worked as the manager of a nightclub in Soho. He is well-known for being the “behaviour guru” for education publication

The Times Educational Supplement and has written several books on teaching, including *Not Quite a Teacher*, and *Teacher Proof*.

Initially heading one expert group looking at the way new teachers are trained to handle behaviour, he has subsequently been asked to review behaviour in schools more broadly.



NATASHA DEVON

Body image expert Devon found mini-fame as a “body confidence expert” on the Channel 4 series *Gok Wan’s The Naked Truth*.

While an 18-year-old student at Aberystwyth University, she was spotted by a model scout and recruited into the business. She slimmed from a size 14 to size 8, and found herself battling exhaustion and an eating disorder.

In 2011 she was working in PR and marketing, and began The Self Esteem team to work with young girls on improving their body image.

Announced as the Department for Education’s first “mental health champion”, she has a remit of encouraging children to speak more widely about mental health issues.

In a statement at the time she said: “3 children per average classroom has a diagnosable mental health problem” and that many more struggled with anxiety.

She has not, as yet, been given an expert panel.



EXPERT GROUPS



Along with the three experts, Nicky Morgan has busily recruited a number of expert groups since taking office in July 2014. So many, in fact, it has been hard to keep up.

Schools Week decided it was time to draw up a list of all the experts, groups, panels and commissions currently reviewing a part of the

school system and put them all into our easy-to-read four-page guide.

In total, eleven groups were found. One has reported this week; one is delayed; and the rest are ongoing.

We will be monitoring their deadlines in future editions.

1

TEACHING ASSISTANTS STANDARDS REVIEW

Launched: October 3, 2014

Due to report: "Spring 2015" DELAYED

DELAYED

WHAT?

Convened last year to create standards for teaching assistants, *Schools Week* reported last week that the report has been sitting in government halls, fully completed, since February. It is not clear why the report has been delayed. The department's response is that it will be released "in due course" – there is no indication of when that will be.

WHO?

Led by headteacher Dame Kate Dethridge, the group includes four current teaching assistants and two classroom teachers. Members are spread across primary and secondary, with two members bringing specialist SEN knowledge.

Led by Kate Dethridge, headteacher of Churchend primary school in Reading

KATE DETHRIDGE



Additional members are:

- Amanda Whittingham, assistant headteacher at Wensley Fold Church of England Primary Academy, Blackburn
- Kathryn Booth, teaching assistant at Downlands Community Primary School, Dorset
- Susan Coates, teacher at Shield Row Primary School, Co Durham
- Kath Robinson, higher-level teaching assistant at Woodthorpe Community Primary School, Sheffield
- Jeanette Rigby, head of inclusion at Hawkley Hall High School, Wigan
- Karen Jackson, higher-level teaching assistant at Thomas Hepburn Community Academy, Gateshead
- Daniel Macafee, higher-level teaching assistant at St Patrick's Roman Catholic High School, Manchester
- Dr Penny Barratt, headteacher of The Bridge School, London
- Simon Knight, deputy headteacher at Frank Wise School, Oxfordshire
- Susie Bailey, teacher at Lakeside School, Hertfordshire
- Marc Rowland, deputy director of the National Education Trust

2

TEACHERS WORKING LONGER REVIEW GROUP

Launched: October 24, 2014

Consultation: Closes October 9

First report due October 2015

Final report due October 2016

WHAT?

Introduced without an official launch, it was first convened in October 2014 and is listed on the government's official list of "groups". It is tasked with exploring the implications of teachers working to 68 and recommending ideas for mitigating any expected problems.

WHO?

Somewhat unusually the group is chaired by a civil servant, Stephen Baker and a member of the Welsh government is on the panel. Other members are all union or school association officials, except for one academy trust leader.

Led by Stephen Baker, Department for Education and group chair

- Adrian Prandle, Association of Teachers and Lecturers
- Andrew Morris, National Union of Teachers
- Dave Wilkinson, National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers
- David Binnie, Association of School and College Leaders
- Deborah Simpson, Voice
- Dilwyn Roberts-Young, Undeb Cenedlaethol Athrawon Cymru (National Union of Teachers of Wales)
- Gillian Allcroft, National Governors' Association
- Graham Baird, Sixth Form Colleges' Association
- Anita Jermyn, Local Government Association
- Donna Saby, Independent Schools Council
- Joan Binder, Freedom and Autonomy for Schools National Association
- Jonathan Lloyd, Welsh Local Government Association
- Mandy Coalter, United Learning
- Pat Moran, Welsh Government
- Valentine Mulholland, National Association of Head Teachers
- Marc Rowland, deputy director of the National Education Trust



PANEL MEMBERS

SIMON KNIGHT



MARK ROWLAND



PANEL MEMBERS

DAVID BINNIE



GILLIAN ALLCROFT



3 ASSESSMENT WITHOUT LEVELS COMMISSION

Launched: March 9, 2015
Due to report: July 2015
Reported: September 17

WHAT?

Announced during a ministerial speech, the Assessment Without Levels Commission was created to help teachers after the scrapping of assessment levels. The government pledged the report would be released by the end of July so schools could prepare for the beginning of the school year. The delayed report is now due to be released on Thursday, September 17.

WHO?

The group was criticised for having no current classroom teachers. It has three headteachers and two assessment specialists. Special needs schools are represented as are heads from primary through to sixth form.

PANEL MEMBERS



DAISY CHRISTODOULOU

Led by John McIntosh, CBE.

Additional members are:

- Shahed Ahmed, Elmhurst Primary School, east London
- Daisy Christodoulou, Ark
- Professor Robert Coe, Durham University and the Centre for Evaluation and Monitoring
- Sam Freedman, Teach First
- Mark Neild, Sir Isaac Newton Sixth Form, Norwich
- Natalie Packer, National Association for Special Educational Needs
- Dame Alison Peacock, The Wroxham Teaching School, Hertfordshire



ROB COE



SAM FREEDMAN



DAME ALISON PEACOCK

4 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS GROUP

David Weston

Launched: March 20, 2015

Consultation: Closes October 16, 2015

Due to report: "Early 2016"

LED BY

DAVID WESTON



WHAT?

The group will create standards for teachers' professional development in a bid to encourage more rigorous and useful methods for improving teachers' practices. Originally launched in March, the group was re-launched again in September. With consultation not closing until mid-October, the original "early 2016" deadline is closing in.

WHO?

Led by one of the three tsars (see page 21), David Weston is joined on the panel by three current teachers, school senior leaders, a crowd of academics and a school business manager (after all, they're the ones who sign off cheques for training costs).

Led by David Weston (chair): CEO, Teacher Development Trust (TDT)

- Professor Rob Coe: professor of education and director, CEM Centre, Durham
- Philippa Cordingley: founder and CEO, Centre for the Use of Research and Evidence in Education (CUREE),
- Hélène Galdin-O'Shea: research advocate, Park High School, London, and co-founder of researched
- Simon Knight: special school deputy headteacher, Frank Wise School, Oxfordshire
- Stéphanie Lefort: head of teaching and learning development, Aylsham School, Norfolk
- Micon Metcalfe: SLE (specialist leader of education) in school business management, Dunraven School, Streatham, London
- Dame Alison Peacock: executive headteacher, The Wroxham School, Hertfordshire
- Alex Quigley: director of learning and research, Huntington School, York

5 INDEPENDENT EXPERT GROUP INTO TEACHER TRAINING

Launched: March 24, 2015

Due to report: December 2015

LED BY

STEPHEN MUNDAY



WHAT?

Former education secretary Michael Gove was convinced that independent teacher training (IT) had been taken over by left-wing thinkers. He therefore asked for a review by Andrew Carter. He recommended designing a new "framework" for teacher training. This group will do that.

WHO?

Academy trust CEO Stephen Munday leads the group. On the panel three slots went to headteachers, one to a university, and one to a teaching school network. It is due to report by the end of 2015.

Led by Stephen Munday, CEO of Comberton Academy Trust

- Tom Bennett, teacher and government behaviour tsar
- Kath Goudie, Cambridge Teaching School Network
- Dina Lewis, dean of education, Hull University
- Margaret Mulholland, director of development and research at Swiss Cottage School, north London
- Ruth Miskin, former headteacher, phonics consultant and founder of Read, Write Inc.
- Seamus Oates, executive headteacher, TBAP Trust
- Dame Alison Peacock, executive headteacher, The Wroxham School, Hertfordshire

ADVANCING WITH THE **TSARS**

6 **TEACHER TRAINING BEHAVIOUR EXPERT GROUP**

Launched: June 16

Due to report: No date given

WHAT?

Two months after launching a review of teacher training, the government decided to particularly look at the way new teachers are trained to handle pupil behaviour. The convened team will write a report of best behaviour practices for trainee teachers.

WHO?

Led by behaviour expert Tom Bennett, the group received criticism on social media for only having two women and seven men. Primary and secondary are both well represented, though, as are headteachers, and Bennett brings the current coalface perspective. Three teachers are from one academy chain, Ark, with two from one school – King Solomon Academy, north London – known for its strict behaviour policies.

Tom Bennett plus

- John D'Abbro, head of the New Rush Hall Group, an organisation

difficulties

- John Tomsett, headteacher of Huntingdon School, York
- Damien MacBeath, headteacher of ARK Conway Primary Academy, London
- Edward Vainker, principal of Reach Academy Feltham, London
- Professor Sam Twiselton, director of the Sheffield Institute of Education
- Jacinta Barnard, child behaviour consultant
- Jonathan Molver, headteacher of ARK King Solomon Academy London
- Max Heimendorf, founding headteacher of ARK King Solomon Academy, London

LED BY

TOM BENNETT



PANEL

JOHN



7.8.9.

TEACHER WORKLOAD EXPERT GROUPS

Launched: July 29

Due to report: No date given

WHAT?

Announced during a Nicky Morgan speech at the end of July this isn't just one group: it's three. To tackle teacher workload concerns three groups of "experts" will be convened to look at administration, planning, and marking.

WHO?

Schools Week can exclusively reveal the three chairs of the groups are:

Marking policy review group: Dawn Copping, headteacher, Shaw Primary Academy, Thurrock

Planning and resources review group: Kathryn Greenhalgh, director of maths at Outwood Grange

Data management review group: Lauren Costello, executive managing director for education strategy, at White Horse Federation in Swindon



NICKY MORGAN



10 **REVIEW INTO ASSESSMENT OF PUPILS WITH LOWER ATTAINMENT**

Launched: July 13

Due to report: December 2015

Members: Will be revealed "in due course"

WHAT?

Pupils whose abilities are lower than the national curriculum have been left out of assessment reviews so far. This group, led by executive headteacher Diane Rochford, will resolve that.

11 **BEHAVIOUR IN SCHOOLS EXPERT GROUP**

Launched:

September 13

Due to report: No information

Members: Will be revealed "in due course"

WHAT?

After a media storm about the perils of smartphones in schools, the government has given behaviour tsar Tom Bennett a second expert group which will look more broadly at behaviour across all schools.