

<b>DIRECTORS' REPORT SPRING TERM 2016</b>	<b>ITEM NO 4</b>	<b>FOR INFORMATION/ ACTION</b>	<b>ATTENTION OF:</b> All governors
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Ealing 14-19 Conference Report</b>		
<b>SUMMARY</b>	The challenge to schools in supporting for young people to plan for a sustainable future in London		
<b>KEY ACTION POINTS</b>	Review Careers Policy in the school and take inspiration from the London Mayor's 'London Ambitions' strategy.		
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Ealing 14-19 Conference in November 2015 focussed on how to create a sustainable future for young people in Ealing – in a world of higher education (HE) debt and sky-high rents. It asked the question:

**How can we ensure our young people are prepared for a future job that will allow them to live, work and enjoy life as a Londoner?**

There were the issues that emerged:

- London employers say that whilst qualifications are important, what they really want from young workers is greater understanding of workplaces, and positive attitudes to work – employability skills. *How are employability skills developed in your school? Check if this is clear in your careers policy*
- Young people and their parents need to better understand the London labour market, and how to plan early to get the right qualifications to get a job which pays an income for a sustainable future in London. Over three-quarters of English young graduates come to London seeking jobs alongside European graduates, all competing with Ealing young people. Even with a degree, that first job is a tough one to obtain. How can we help parents understand the London options? *Schools might want to use open evenings to inform young people and parents about the London (+ global?) job market; presentations from the 14-19 conference available*
- There was support for a modern approach of 100 hours of 'exposure to work places and experiences' across primary and secondary education to replace 'work experience' and be the focus for careers education. *See 'London Ambitions' for Mayor's strategy for all young people to be better prepared for getting a job in London.* <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/education-and-youth/preparing-young-people-workplace/about-london-ambitions>
- More young people from Ealing are progressing to full-time HE, and we celebrate the opportunities this brings them, both personal and career. Do we need to think more about the size of the debts they are incurring (average debt for undergraduate degree leaving 2015 will be £36,000 and more for post-graduate)? A level and full-time HE is no longer the only route to success and for some is increasingly less affordable. There are alternative routes to HE that help create a more sustainable London future. For example, many middle technical jobs are shortage occupations and offer career opportunities, often through further education (FE) College, apprenticeships, Degree Apprenticeships,

higher national diplomas (HND) and part-time higher national certificates (HNC) (while working) and jobs at age 18. It is challenging for schools to promote (or even comprehend) the whole offer.

- The new qualification changes in post-16 linear A levels – where students take one set of exams at the end of two years of study with no internal assessment; and vocational qualifications with exam assessments and employer involvement. This means that young people need more support in making attainable choices and information and guidance early, in years 7 and 8, so that they make well-informed GCSE choices which don't shut down options to career jobs in London. *Does your Careers policy have information and guidance for Years 7 and 8 – as well as post-17 and 18?*

For young people who don't achieve 5 A\*-C with English and maths, which is nearly 40% of all year 11 finishers, the challenge is even greater. Some delegates thought schools should enrol more Level 2 students into the sixth form and give them an extra year of post-16 vocational learning and employability experience in school before moving on. *There are some discussions going on between sixth forms to consider such an offer on a collaborative basis*

See your careers manager in school for the presentations at the conference, which explain and discuss these issues.