



Michael Gove Education Lunch

Guildhall

Thursday 23rd June 2011, 12.30 – 14.30

The Rt Hon The Lord Mayor of London

Alderman Michael Bear

Secretary of State, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am delighted to welcome you all to today's lunch, to discuss how 'we the City' can sustain and grow our vital investment in Education.

This event is particularly timely, following the launch of the New Schools Network at Guildhall earlier this year – an organization which aims to improve State education for the most deprived children.

My thanks to:

- the Company of Educators and its Master, Dr Peter Briggs;
- the Headmasters and Headmistresses Conference;
- and its Chairman David Levin,

for building on *that* event, and making *today* possible.

I am delighted to see such a stellar cast of decision-makers here today, and we are honoured to be hearing later from the Secretary of State for Education.

Fresh from last week's announcement to sponsor 200 more secondary-school academies, and 200 more primary-school academies.

Welcome, Michael [Secretary of State].

I am particularly inspired by your participation, and that of your cabinet colleagues, in the 'Speakers for Schools' initiative. When launched this October, state school children will be inspired by leaders from *every* field. I hope we in the City can support state education in this way.

As Lord Mayor, and the head of the City of London Corporation, I am incredibly proud of the role the City plays to enrich our educational offer. Which is so important to our position as the world's *pre-eminent* financial centre.

Because the City's uniquely-strong EQT offer, underpins its success. We have a well-deserved global reputation for academic excellence. And we must maintain, and *build*, this reputation.

This will help our City to flourish in a globally-competitive environment – where change is the only certainty!

The City has supported Education for hundreds of years. From the support the City Livery companies give around 200 schools, colleges and academies – to business engagement through funding, mentoring and training. We all play a vital part.

The Corporation is committed to building skills and aspirations in young people.

Not least, through sponsoring three academies – in Southwark, Hackney and Islington. With a focus on business and enterprise, these academies will shape the business leaders of the future.

The Corporation also supports a range of educational initiatives – such as the Brokerage City link, Teach First, and Career Academies UK.

It also links education with business through work placements, employee volunteering, and the establishment of the School Governors One Stop Shop, which brokers Governor placements across the country.

And, just last year, the Corporation commissioned a *ground-breaking* report on the business case for volunteering. The report outlined, for the *first* time, the quantifiable benefits of “corporate volunteering programmes” in education. My thanks to the firms which participated in this study.

The City is a hub of educational excellence. We are home to numerous world-class establishments – *such as* City of London School, whose Head, David Levin, will be speaking later.

So Ladies and Gentlemen, today’s event could not be more important. Because education gives us the keys to the future. It equips us with the tools to succeed.

I commend the sterling support given to academies and numerous other educational initiatives by the business sector.

I hope we can:

- showcase the excellent work accomplished so far;
- forge even *stronger* links between the City, educators and policy makers;
- and inspire many *more* businesses to lend their valuable support to Education.

And it now gives me great pleasure to ask you, Secretary of State, to address us all...

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