



Strictly embargoed: Not for publication or broadcast before 00: 01 Hrs 14th October 2008

RSA to launch School Governance network

School Governors across England and Wales will be able to share radical new ideas and best practice through a 'School Governance Network' announced today by the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts Manufactures and Commerce (RSA).

The RSA's announcement comes as Business in the Community (BITC) launches its own report 'Governing our Schools' calling for a greater clarity of purpose for governing bodies. The RSA's School Governance Network will go some way to making this goal become a reality – developing visionary leaders for our schools and helping them to make bold, innovative decisions.

The RSA network will bring together governors and other school leaders in order to improve student's development both academically and outside school. The network will be designed by its members for its members with an emphasis on finding new solutions to longstanding challenges that schools and their communities continue to face.

Chief Executive of the RSA, Matthew Taylor said:

"School governance is a powerful force for change in education, both for raising academic standards and improving students' outcomes in the broadest sense. The challenge, however, is to provide the people running schools with the skills, knowledge and confidence to be innovative leaders. The RSA's proposed School Governance Network will do just that - enabling governors across the country to share radical new ideas and develop best practice."

Deputy Chief Executive, School Governors' One-Stop Shop Janet Scott said:

"The School Governors' One-Stop Shop is delighted to support this exciting new initiative. School governors face the challenge of setting the budget, strategic planning and appointing senior staff so anything that encourages them to share their experience and best practice not only benefits governors but also schools and their pupils."

ENDS

For further information, contact RSA Head of Media, Luke Robinson on 020 7451 6893 or luke.robinson@rsa.org.uk

Notes to editors:

1. For over 250 years the RSA (Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce) has been a cradle of enlightenment thinking and a force for social progress. Our approach is multi-disciplinary, politically independent and combines cutting edge research and policy development with practical action. Our work is supported by 27,000 Fellows, an international network of influencers and innovators from every field and background.
2. The RSA's history of innovation in education goes back to its foundation in 1753. Since then it has started the first national examinations, run its own vocational examination body, run a successful campaign to introduce state nursery provision and founded the Royal College of Music among other initiatives.
3. The RSA's current education projects include Opening Minds, a competency-based curriculum which is running in over 200 state-maintained secondary schools across the country.
4. The RSA Charter for Education in the 21st Century was developed with 13 other leading UK education organisations and is a vision of how education can create students who will thrive in a changing modern world. It is supported by a growing number of teachers' unions, education charities and parent and pupils' organisations. Full details are available at www.thersa.org.uk/projects/education/education-campaign.
5. The RSA School Governance Network's first workshop will take place on 18th October 2008 at the RSA's London headquarters.