

The EBacc

or

What to do?

'The government's ambition

.....is to see 90% of students in year 10 starting to study the EBacc subject combination by 2025. [Tallis 2024]

Secondary schools are measured on the number of pupils that take GCSEs in these core subjects.

Schools are also measured on how well their pupils do in these subjects.'

This is the start of a consultation. Why?

- Schools Minister Nick Gibb and OFSTED completely committed
- 8-year lead-in is unusual, DfE 'being reasonable'
- will it happen?
- is it inevitable?

What's happening?

- compulsory in many (most?) schools.
- we encourage higher ability to do it, but don't compel

Is this an assault on the arts?

- perverse incentives, shocking choices
- the nature of a national curriculum as shared knowledge
- performance tables

- up to schools
- some now only offer Ebacc + National Curriculum GCSEs. Why?

We are some distance from the target.

- about 36% of our children choose Ebacc
- staffing takes time without money

How should Tallis react?

- remain semi-detached?
- minor accountability measure changes to **major** in 2025
- what are our responsibilities:
 - as **educators**: educational benefits and challenges, resource implications, likely outcomes
 - as **public servants**: this is a manifesto purpose of a democratically-elected government. On what grounds do we resist?

What do we do currently?

- from 2016-17 (March 2016) students choose at least one Ebacc subject
- staffing takes time without money
- languages
- history and geography
- the new GCSEs
- 3-year Key Stage 4

What could we do next?

- make it compulsory?
- ignore it and take the performance table risk?
- make different abilities do a different number of subjects with languages compulsory for higher ability?

How will we decide?

- We are committed to open decision-making, so we have time to debate
- We are raising issues with parents, especially current year 7

BUT

- leadership requires decision-making, not a democratic process.
- what might deliberately ignoring an accountability measure do to Tallis?

When will we decide?

- Governors 27 March 2018
- Whole-staff first discussions 24 April 2018
- Parent information sent out May 2018
- Staff, student, parent surveys June-July 2018
- Parent Consultation Evening 4 July 2018

So

- Should we start to move towards making Ebacc compulsory?
- Should we move towards making Ebacc compulsory for children with an aptitude for that kind of learning?
- Should we persevere with our own decision-making

Education to understand the world and change
it for the better

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