



PRIME MINISTER

Progress with Education Reform

1. We are meeting next Wednesday to review progress with implementing the Education Reform Act. In the 3 months since Royal Assent we have set out, in Circulars and other guidance, action programmes with detailed timetables for each of the main aspects of the Act. I can let you have details when we meet but you may like to have the attached brief summary as a form of an annotated agenda.

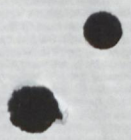
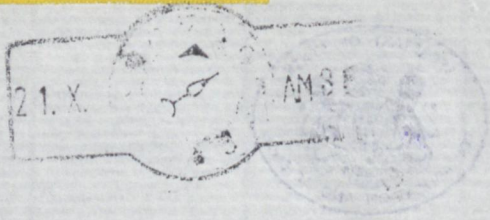
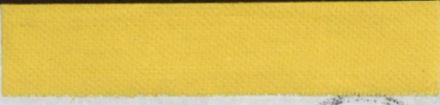
2. In general there are encouraging signs that the education service is co-operating with our great Reform programme, particularly on local management of schools and colleges. We must not let the pace of reform slacken. Immediate issues on which I would particularly welcome your views are:

- settling our proposals for attainment targets in English. I am letting you have separately my proposals for English together with the report by Brian Cox. I regard it as essential to have English running alongside maths and science from next September. To meet that target, I must start off the statutory process through the NCC very soon.
- Setting in hand work on other foundation subjects in the national curriculum. I would like to appoint a working group to look at history before Christmas and one on geography early in the New Year. Before the end of 1989 I should also begin work on modern languages: we must have something rigorous in place about the teaching of modern languages in 1992.

21 OCTOBER 1988

K.S.

KB



Handwritten text, possibly a signature or name, which is very faint and difficult to read. It appears to be written in a cursive or semi-cursive style.

ANNEX

ACTION ON THE EDUCATION REFORM ACT

SCHOOLS

- LEAs are required to submit for approval schemes of local management for schools by next September with the great majority being implemented from April 1990. Detailed guidance has been given to LEAs.
- All secondary schools will be required to admit pupils up to the physical capacity of the school from 1990. Many will have achieved that target next year. A Circular on More Open Enrolment setting out the action required was published last week.
- A guide on "How to become a GM school" went to every governing body in September followed by a detailed circular in October. The GM School Trust reports inquiries from over 300 schools. First GM schools to be established by September 1989.
- The main provisions of the Act on collective worship and religious education are now in force. LEAs are required to establish Standing Advisory Committees on Religious Education as soon as possible. Draft guidance issued in September.
- All LEAs are required to submit proposals for local complaints machinery covering curriculum, RE and collective worship by March next year. Approved arrangements to be in place by next September.
- The governing bodies of all county schools are now reconstituted with increased parental representation. We have issued all governors with a popular guide to the law. An extensive training programme is being launched.
- On the national curriculum, we have set up the two statutory councils with detailed remits for the next 6 months. NCC is now working on our proposals for maths and science and will report next month; SEAC has started commissioning the tests for 7 year olds on a specification agreed with me. We are on course for introducing maths and science attainment targets at 11 and maths, science and English at 5 from September 1989. Draft Circular issued this month.
- First CTC opened and 2 more in September 1989. £30m of committed business sponsorship. Firm prospects for up to 10 more dependent on sites and statutory procedures.

### FURTHER EDUCATION

- LEAs required to submit for approval schemes of delegation for all FE colleges by September 1989 with implementation from April 1990. New governing bodies to be established by April 1990. Detailed guidance published in September.

### HIGHER EDUCATION

- The new funding Councils will be incorporated on 1 November. UFC and PCFC will make first allocations to institutions in the New Year.
- Formation Committees for re-establishment of polytechnics and colleges as new higher education corporations now at work. The corporations will be formally established on 21 November.
- Provisions on bogus degrees will be implemented next month.

### ILEA

Detailed guidance on transfer published in August. Development plans due by end of February. Detailed work programme with all boroughs and LEAs who are now responding positively.