

**CABINET SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION & SKILLS
MEETING WITH SIR IAN WOOD**

What	Sir Ian has requested this meeting to discuss the Foundation's on-going work with Education Scotland/SG in relation to STEM education and specifically support for the RAiSE primary teacher professional learning initiative and related programmes.
When	Tuesday 27 July, 13:00-13:45.
Where	Teams call.
Who	Sir Ian Wood, Chairman, the Wood Foundation. Alison MacLachlan, Strategic Director, Wood Foundation.
Why	Sir Ian wishes to cover the investment by the Foundation in schools, specifically in the North East. He will highlight his belief that teachers are at the vanguard of positive change and is likely to briefly cover 3 current Foundation programmes: Excelerate, the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative and the RAiSE primary science programme. Background to each is at Annex B.
Key messages	We remain committed to working with the Wood Foundation through the joint-venture RAiSE programme and the clear alignment with the broader aims of the Government's STEM Education and Training Strategy.
Official support	[Redacted under Section 38]
Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions • Wood Foundation – support for education programmes • Future relationship
Main objective	This meeting is a follow-up from a meeting last months between Sir Ian and DFM. It aim is to allow Sir Ian an opportunity to set out the work of the Foundation to the Cab Sec in her new portfolio role. We know that the Foundation are not seeking SG additional financial support at this stage. Their aim is to ensure the visibility of their work.

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Annex A

Lines to take

- We continue to be encouraged by the work of the Wood Foundation in their engagement with schools, collaboration with education authorities and unwavering support for teacher professional learning in STEM.
- I agree that the financial support that the Foundation has provided to local authorities in particular has leveraged an on-going financial commitments from councils that might not otherwise have been possible.
- One of the themes of the STEM Strategy concerns connectivity of stakeholders operating within the STEM landscape. This programme is a good example of the success of that collaborative effort.
- In a wider sense, the Foundation's programmes support the OECD recommendation to 'strengthen the middle' and support professional collaboration.
- The third annual report of the STEM Strategy was published in March and demonstrated that, despite COVID-19 restrictions, a range of STEM stake-holders were able to continue to deliver STEM initiatives. As we are over half way through the STEM Strategy 5-year programme, we are taking the opportunity to review progress to date and we hope to comment further on that in the coming months.
- I would be very interested to know what your view was on the STEM strategy, and on what we need to prioritise in the coming years, or anything you think is not working so well.
- I would encourage you to continue with the partnership with Education Scotland as there is clear evidence of that engagement being successful and benefiting teachers and pupils alike.

If raised: Finance

The foundation may seek confirmation of future funding or request support for further schemes (n.b. The Foundation sought SG support for the Youth Philanthropy Initiative last year. DFM declined, citing budget pressures.) At this stage there is no expectation of additional STEM budget.

- Going forward, there is no doubt that the financial resources available to support STEM education and other curriculum areas will come under increased pressure. It is not therefore possible at this stage to give a clear and unequivocal commitment to support for the financial year 2022 and thereafter. We hope to be in a position to comment on budgets later in the year.
- In the interim officials are collecting evidence of effectiveness and value for money for current funding and schemes, and I understand you've provided a lot of helpful information to date to support that.

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Annex B

Background

Excelerate

Excelerate is a curriculum project based initiative being piloted at Alford, Kemnay, Banff, and Portlethen Academies harnessing the power of partnerships in creating authentic, meaningful and impactful learning opportunities. The programme supports the development of young people's readiness for work by enabling schools and partners to deliver high-quality, diverse pathways that further realise the opportunities of the curriculum through interventions such as project-based learning.

Bringing the principles of Developing the Young Workforce Strategy and Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) policies together, Excelerate Learning is designed to influence and inform secondary school transformation. The Foundation aims to test and trial school transformation in at least eight secondary schools from communities that are rural, urban, high and low income. In addition to having a solid base of schools that demonstrate evidence of change, the Foundation seeks to build a bank of highly skilled, experienced, and credible practitioners who are senior leaders, middle managers and classroom teachers along with Business and Community Support Officers. These practitioners form a network of Excelerate Leaders of Learning; trainers who can be deployed to deliver professional learning workshops and mentoring to new school communities embarking upon secondary school transformation.

There are some clear success criteria required in order to deliver a high quality, context-driven, skills engaged curriculum across a whole school.

- Strong leadership, distributed across the school team, ensuring sustainability.
- Large percentage of school team owning and driving a collective vision
- Small learning communities (class sizes)
- Blocked / flexible timetable
- Project-based, interdisciplinary learning
- Genuine collaboration with parents, community, and business partners.
- Flexible strategic plans guided by data and quality assurance.

In schools and systems where such transformation has been successful, scale has been slow and deliberate. Time is required to implement practice, train practitioners and test their systems, using lessons learned to inform their development and growth. The Foundation has drawn inspiration from familiar education contexts; where the work is with established state schools operating within a system entrenched in hierarchy, archaic structures and learning and teaching protocols driven by exam results.

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RAiSE – Primary Science Initiative

The RAiSE (Raising Aspirations in Science Education) is a programme of The Wood Foundation, Education Scotland, Scottish Government and participating local authorities. RAiSE equips primary practitioners with the skills, networks, and confidence to deliver engaging and motivating STEM experiences. Participating local authorities appoint a Primary Science Development Officer (PSDO) to support professional learning and partnership working. PSDOs co-ordinate and deliver professional learning, create networks, empower practitioners, organise events, develop partnerships, highlight opportunities, and offer tailored operational and strategic support.

There is currently a suite of online resources and opportunities which are shared nationally through social media and other platforms. As at December 2020, 77% of teachers involved in the RAiSE programme noted that the pupils' STEM aspirations have increased. The initiative is now a national offer with a rolling programme of education authority engagement. As of February 2021, 17 authorities have been involved and over 300 professional learning events have run between August and December 2020. To date, RAiSE has delivered over 1,450 professional learning events, with over 54,605 cumulative hours of professional learning. Scottish Government funding for the programme for FY21/22 is £166K and is matched by the Wood Foundation.

RAiSE – Key Facts

- 76% of teachers surveyed noted they were more confident in their science content
- 16 local authorities have been engaged since 2016
- The programme has delivered more than 54,000 of professional learning support
- More than 16,000 practitioners have been involved.

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Youth and Philanthropy Initiative – YPI

The Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) is an active citizenship programme which has empowered nearly a quarter of a million young people to channel £5M to local charities. It better develops their understanding of the world and the role they have to play in it, as well as key skills. The Foundation hopes to work with 280 secondary schools next year.

Schools enrolled in the initiative are provided with £3K. The learners then research local charities and debate which one to provide the grant to. The Wood Foundation requested SG funding to support the expansion of the initiative last year. DFM declined citing budget pressures.

YPI is a 12 week curricular-relevant programme in which learners are able to gain an appreciation of philanthropy, research the needs of their community and ultimately provide £3K worth of grant funding to a local charity. The programme brings together a whole year group between S2 and S6 to decide how best to allocate a £3K grant to a local charity. With the support of facilitators from The Wood Foundation, learners and teachers at participating schools are provided with the background to the programme. The year group is then split into smaller teams, each of which looks to identify the social needs of their local communities. Each team identifies relevant local charities, researches their work and makes contact with them in order to decide which charity to nominate to receive the funding.

YPI has a positive impact on learning within curricular areas as well as on broader skills associated with Curriculum for Excellence. As participating schools decide on the area of the curriculum within which YPI is delivered, the programme has the potential to enhance learning. Since the programme was piloted with 10 schools in 2008/09, YPI has engaged with over 140,000 learners across Scotland and facilitated the investment of over £3.2M in local charities.

N.b. The Foundation sought SG support for the Youth Philanthropy Initiative last year. DFM declined, citing budget pressures.

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Annex C

Biography – Sir Ian Wood

Sir Ian Wood KT GBE is a well-respected and influential global businessman. His career began in the North-east fishing industry but he is best known for his work in the North Sea and international oil industry with Wood Group, serving as Chief Executive from 1967 to 2006 and as Chairman until 2012. He was the author of the Maximising Economic Recovery UK Report and, based on funds secured from the City Region Deal and the work of Opportunity North East (ONE), led the start-up of the Oil & Gas Technology Centre (OGTC). Sir Ian remains Chairman of JW Holdings Limited, is the current Chancellor of Robert Gordon University, Chairman of Opportunity North East (ONE), established by the private sector to broaden and boost the economy of the North-east of Scotland, and founding Chairman of OGTC. He also chaired the 2014 Commission on Developing Scotland's Young Workforce.

Committed to the importance of philanthropy, Sir Ian Wood and his family established The Wood Foundation in 2007, where he is Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Applying venture philanthropy principles, there are three main investment streams where proactive, intelligent funding is directed – Developing Young People in Scotland, Venture Philanthropy Transforming Livelihoods in East Africa, and Facilitating Economic and Education Development in Scotland. Sir Ian is passionate about philanthropy and continues to encourage other people to realise the impact they can have through effective giving – it doesn't need to be money; time and/or knowledge can be just as powerful. Recognising Sir Ian's contributions, he was awarded the CBE in the 1982 New Year's Honours List, a Knighthood in the 1994 New Year's Honours List and a GBE (Knight Grand Cross) in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in 2016.