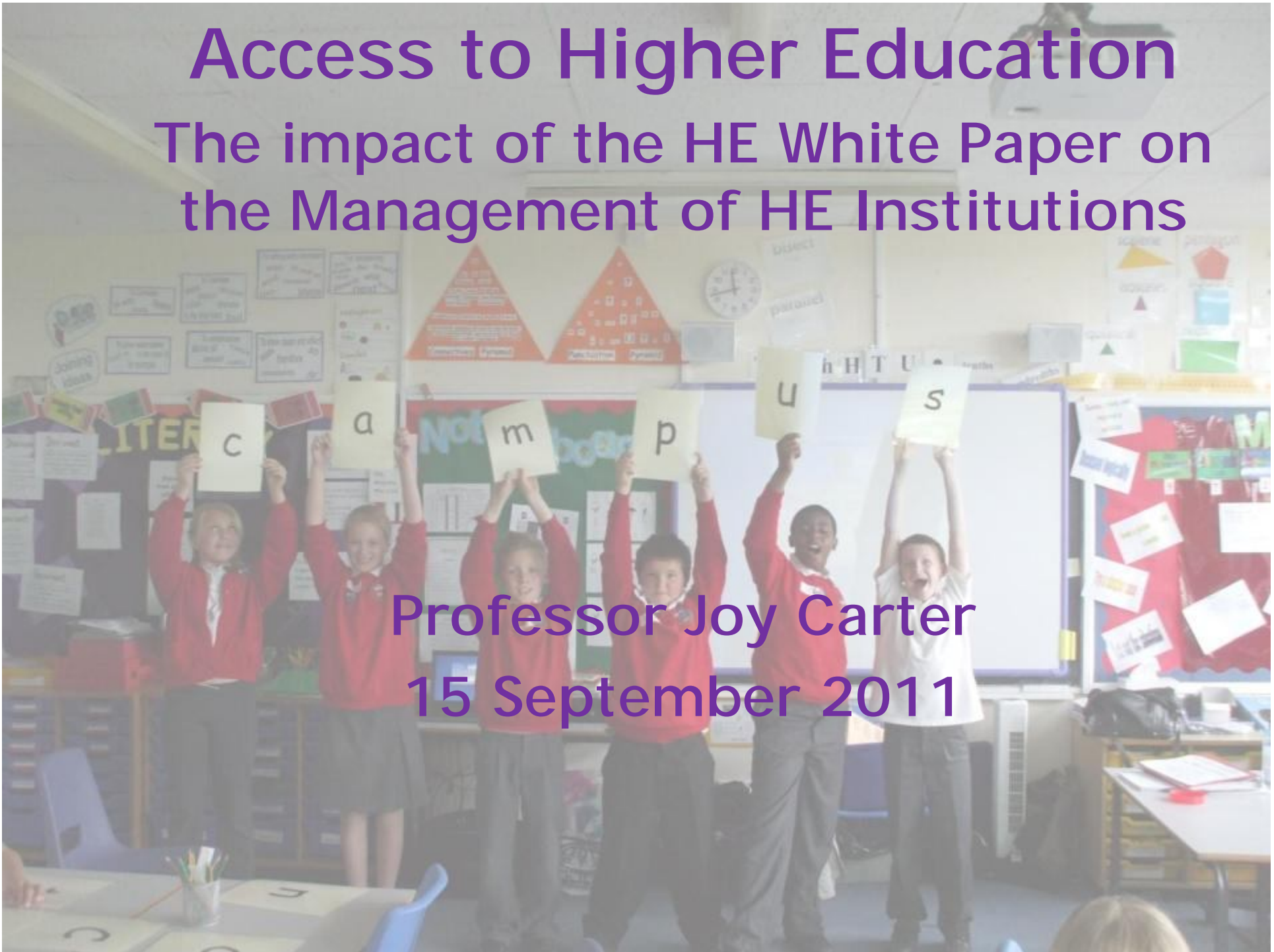


# Access to Higher Education

## The impact of the HE White Paper on the Management of HE Institutions

Professor Joy Carter  
15 September 2011



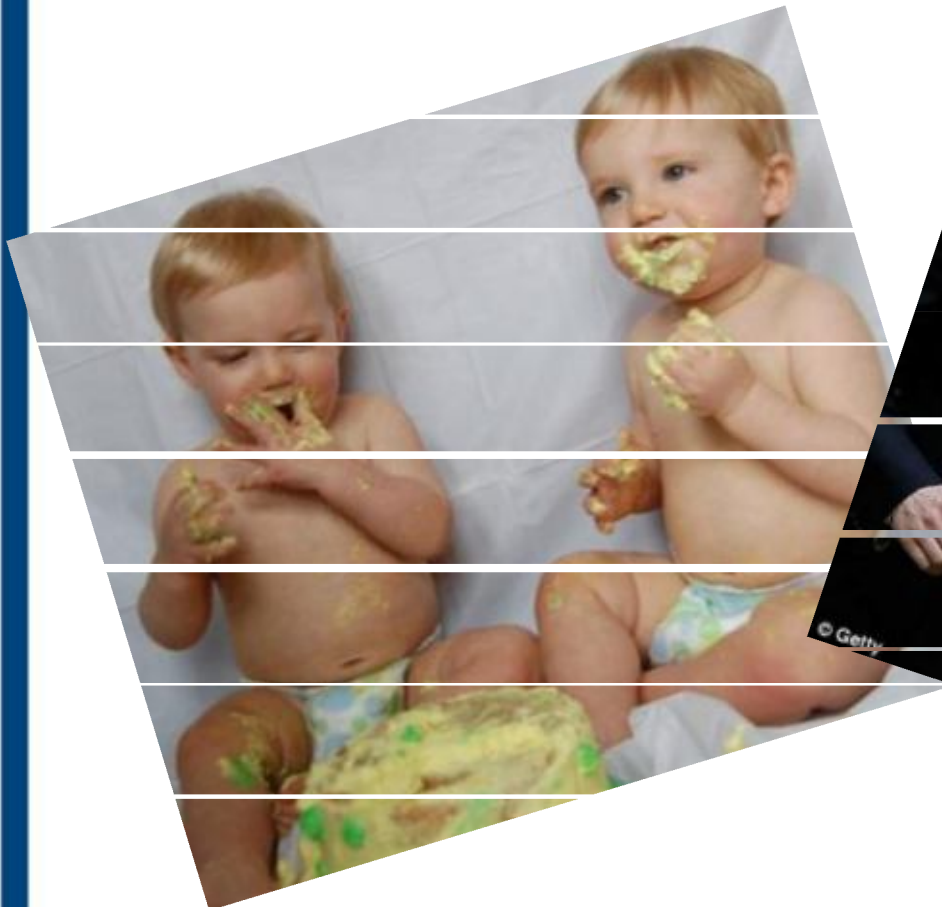
# OUTLINE

1. The context
2. The HE White Paper – the good news & the less good news
3. Summary

# OUTLINE

1. The context
2. The HE White Paper – the good news & the less good news
3. Summary

# First birthday of Coalition Government May 2011







Year 10, Summer School  
at Portsmouth University

# “Expect a consumer revolution”

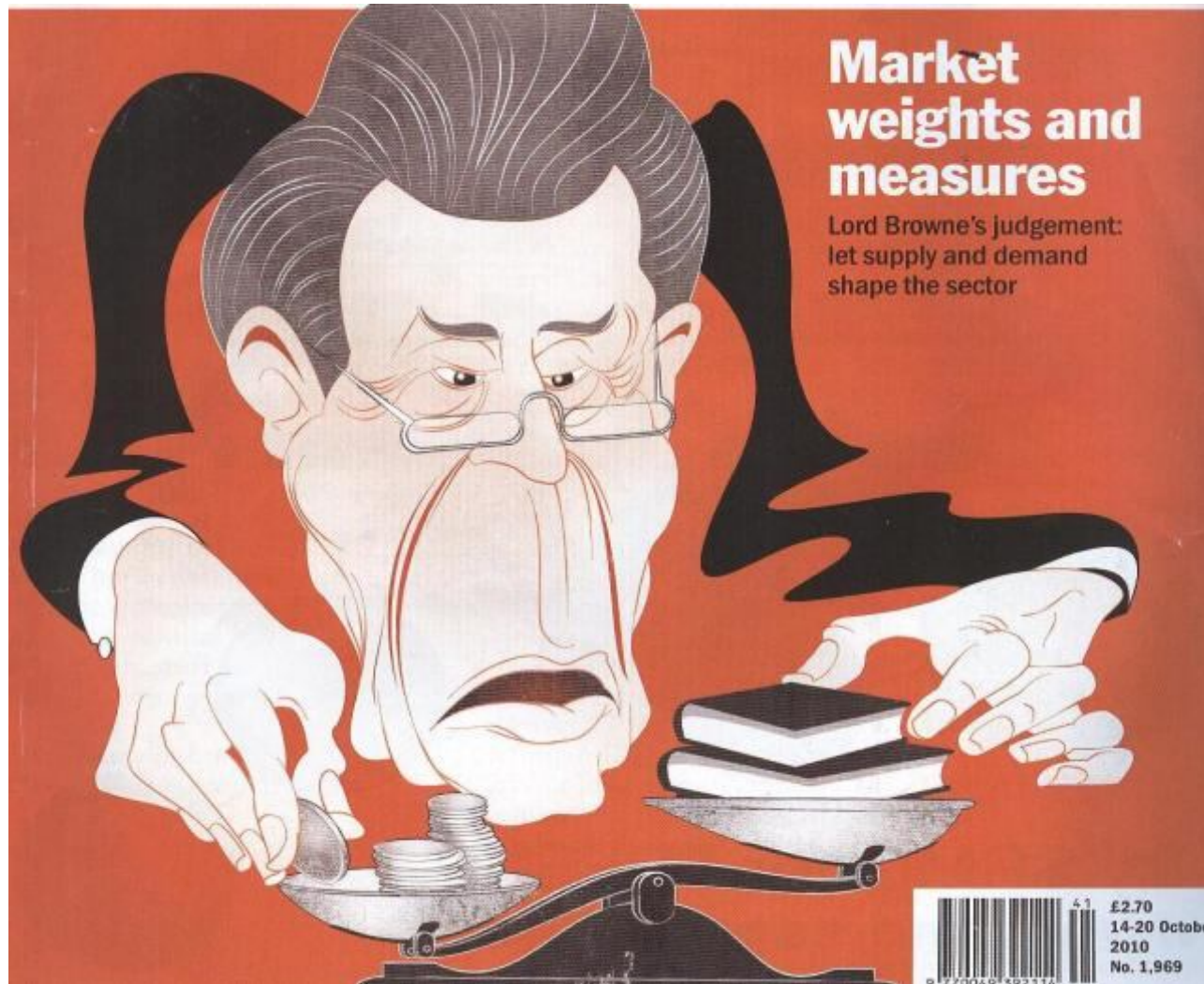


Aaron Porter  
Leader of NUS up to June 2011



Liam Burns  
Leader of NUS wef July 2011





White Paper followed Browne Report (Nov 2009)  
and the Government's statements about HE in  
the light of that report



“Universities don’t all need to do research”  
“We shall open up HE to new providers including  
more FE colleges”

David Willetts  
Minister for Universities & Science







"I expect to see a sector faced with more competition, more demanding students, ... and higher quality but lower-cost teaching"

Vince Cable, Secretary of State  
April 2011

... so early underpinning philosophy:

- increasing competition
- increasing student choice
- enhancing social mobility







# Chaos Theory

Vicky Brago-Mitchell





# OUTLINE

1. The context
2. The HE White Paper – the good news & the less good news
3. Summary

"The White Paper focuses very largely on direct Government measures to restrain the financial consequences of its proposals."



Bahram Bekhradnia, HEPI



**BIS** | Department for Business  
Innovation & Skills

HIGHER EDUCATION

Students at the Heart of the  
System

JUNE 2011

- More responsive to student choice
- Better student experience
- Helps to improve social mobility

# What's not in the White Paper?

- Research
- Postgraduates
- Internationalisation









# Opening Doors, Breaking Barriers: A Strategy for Social Mobility

April 2011

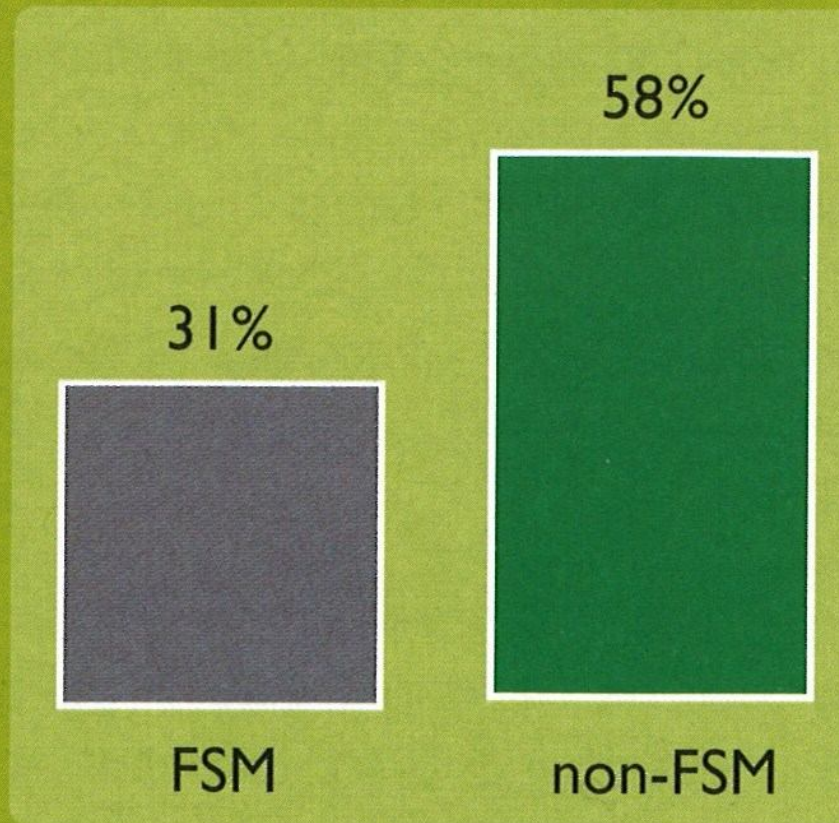
 HM Government

We are keen to work  
with Alan Milburn  
and with other  
sectors to enhance  
social mobility



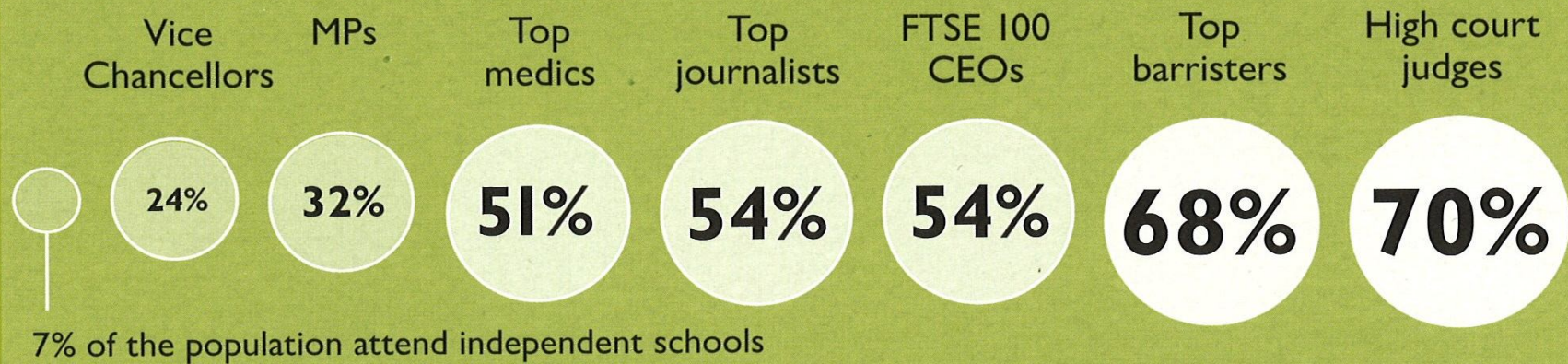


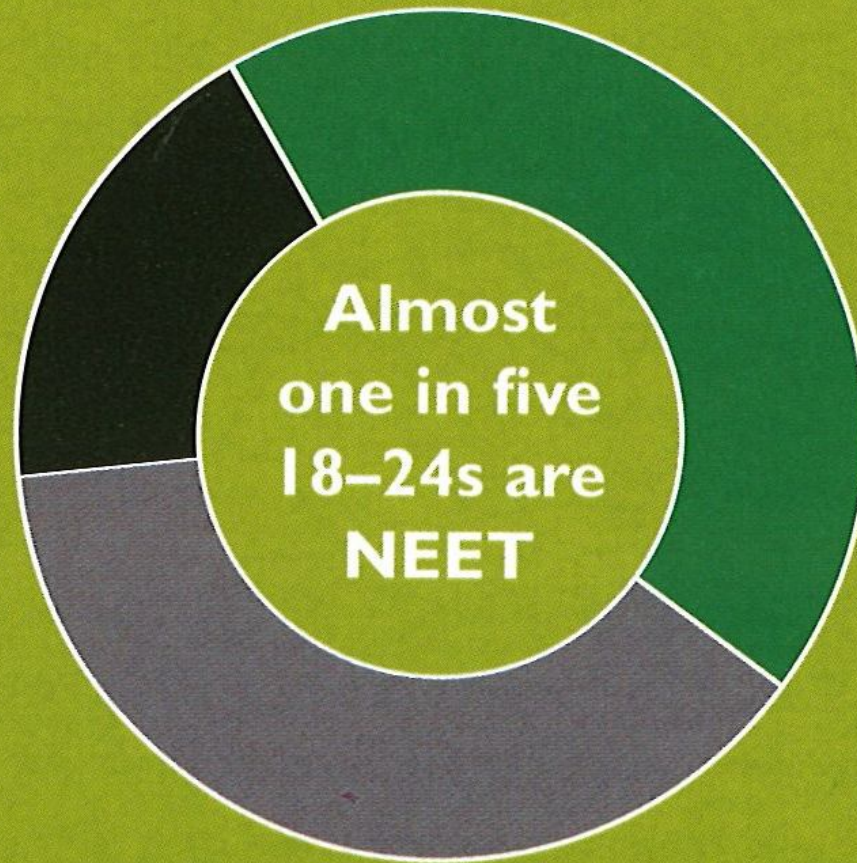
Children eligible for free school meals (FSM) are around half as likely as others to get five good GCSEs (5 grade A\*–C including English and maths)





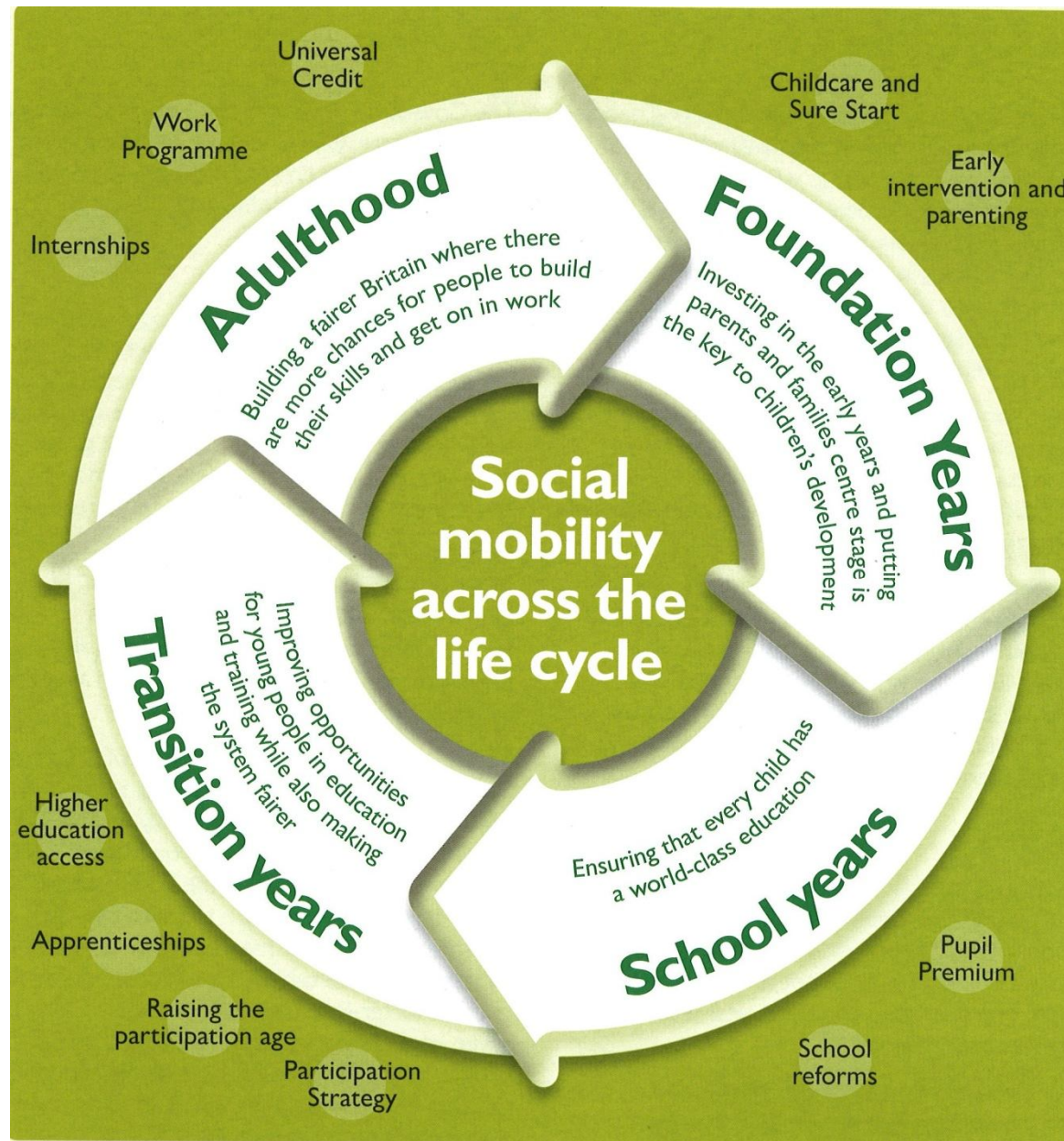
## Professional occupations are dominated by the privately educated





- Education/training
- Employed
- NEET





“The focus on improving information for prospective students, flexible learning opportunities and quality are positive steps towards supporting social mobility”

July 2011





# Improving information to prospective students including:

- Key Information Sets
- Careers information
- Financial information

# Independent Student Finance Taskforce



Martin Lewis



Wes Streeting

# New Access Agreements



Increased investment in access measures:

£407 million in 2011/12

£602 million in 2015/16

# White Paper outlines a need for WP performance indicators





The WP debate continues to be dominated by the Fair Access debate

Fair access agenda – 3,000 students

WP debate ~ 360,000 young people/year who fail to reach the standards to progress to 'A' level

and ~ 60,000 who are in the top 20% at some stage in their education but did not go to HE by the age of 19

The discrepancies in  
these numbers and the  
scale of the problem is  
overwhelming



## Dealing with unintended consequences

The most significant measures in the White Paper – ensuring that fee levels are brought down

1. AAB+ proposals
2. Core & Margin





# 1. AAB+ Proposals

Institutions will be able to recruit AAB+ students *without limit* (not doctors/dentists)



# % AAB+ Grades varies widely

Oxford	99%
Cambridge	99%
Imperial	96%
LSE	93%
Durham	85%
Liverpool	32%
Essex	8%
Winchester	4%
Portsmouth	3%
Canterbury Christchurch	2%

# Universities may 'buy' top A-level students

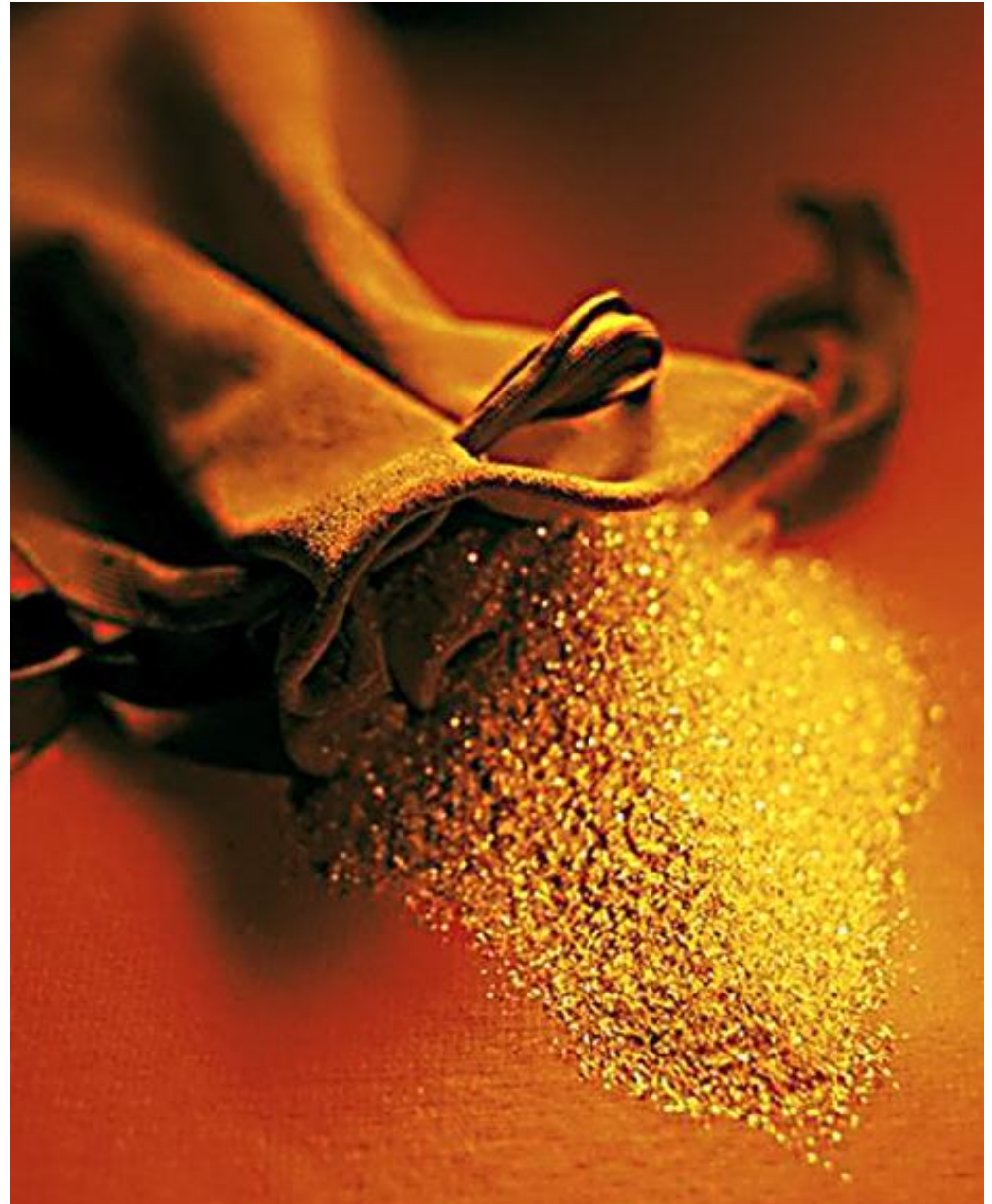
Middle-ranking universities may offer scholarships to lure AAB-grade students or higher away from elite universities



Jeevan Vasagar, education editor  
Guardian Sunday 31 July 2011

"AAB+ students  
will become like  
gold dust"

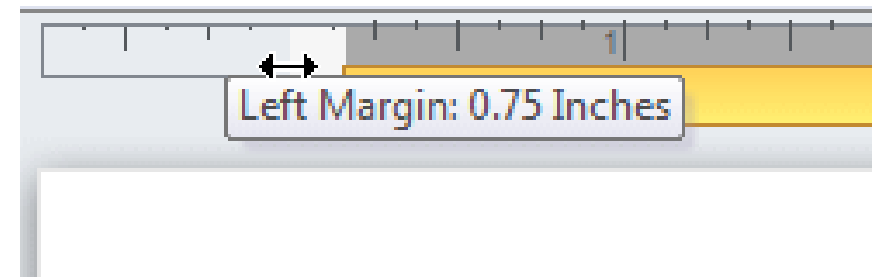
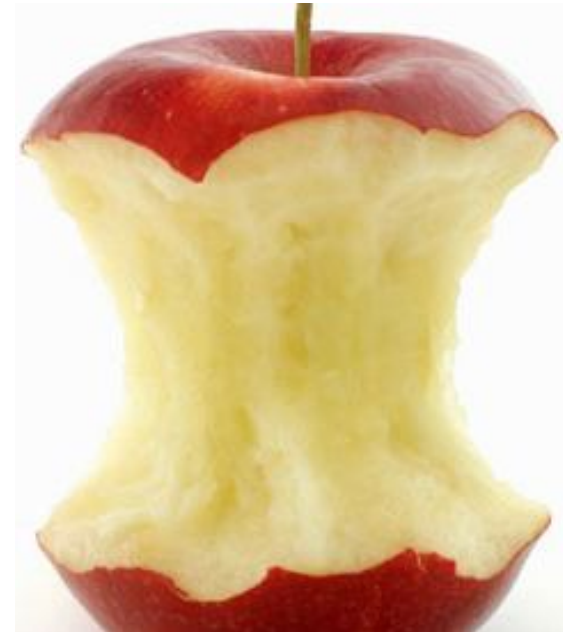
Steve Smith, 1 August 2011





## 2. 'Core & Margin'

1. Each HEI assigned a number of home & EU u/g entrants (based on historical numbers)
2. Subtract AAB+ nos
3. Subtract 8% (the 'margin') (6k) – left with the 'core'



# Bidding for 'margin pool places'



If average fee, after waivers, is  $\leq 7.5k$ , HEIs can bid for 'margin-pool' numbers

# Uncertainties abound...

The 'price' for AAB+ retention/expansion

The 'margin' re-distribution mechanism

**and importantly**

The effects on WP and social mobility



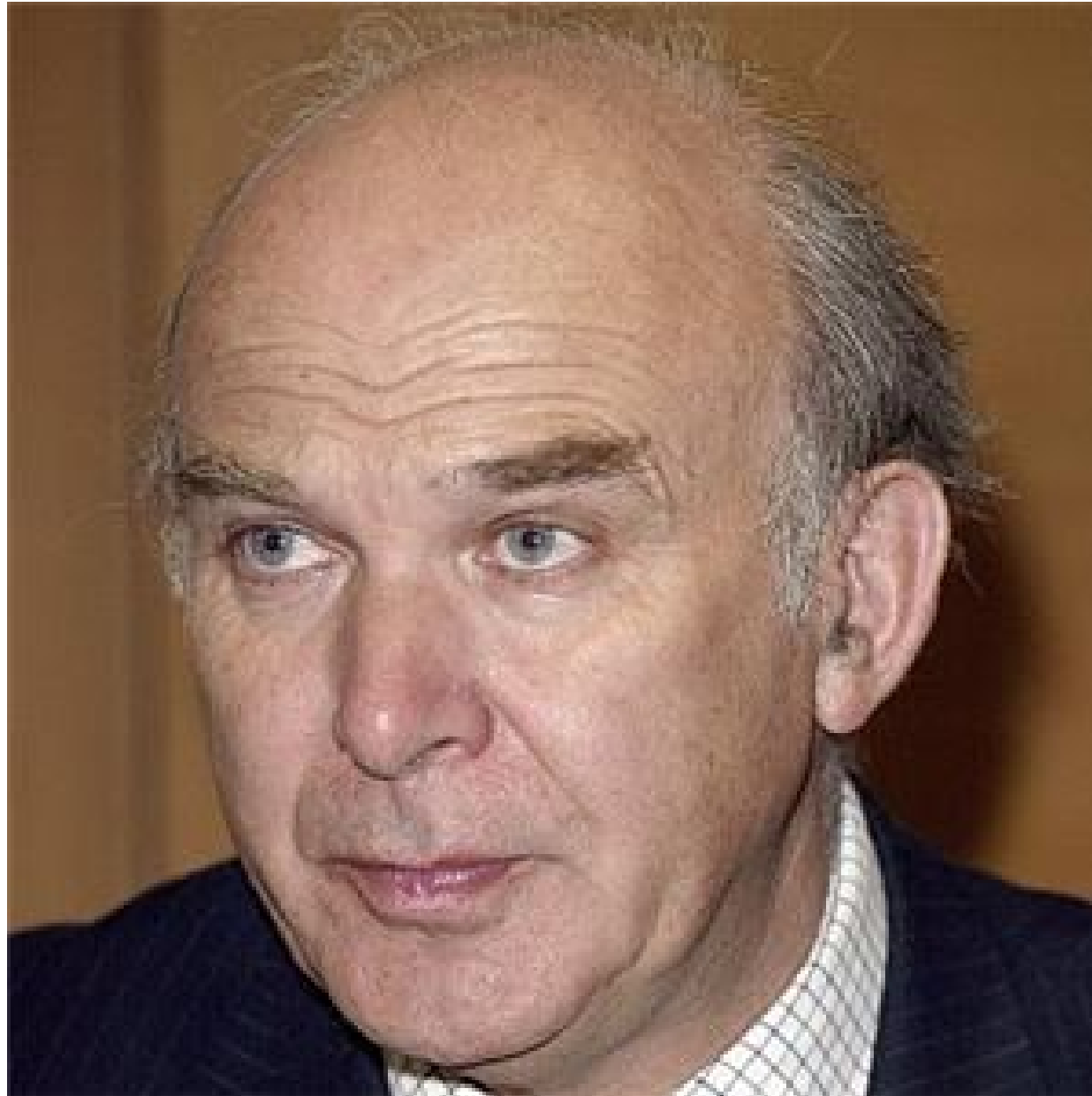
# Research demonstrates that:

- students from more disadvantaged backgrounds do less well at school than those from more advantaged backgrounds<sup>\*</sup>
- students from independent schools achieve a higher proportion of AAB+ grades than those from the state sector<sup>\*\*</sup>
- students from independent schools with the same grades at 'A' level as students from comprehensive schools, do less well at university<sup>\*\*\*</sup>

<sup>\*</sup>Gregg P and Goodman A, Poorer Children's educational attainment: how important are attitudes and behaviours? Joseph Rowntree Foundation (2010)

<sup>\*\*</sup>Department for Education: GCE/Applied A/AS and Equivalent Examination Results in England 2009-10 (2010)

<sup>\*\*\*</sup>Opening Doors, Breaking Barriers: A Strategy for Social Mobility P.19 **and** Chowdry H et al, Widening Participation in Higher Education: Analysis using linked administrative data, Institute for Fiscal Studies Working Paper W10/04 (2010)



Vince Cable, Secretary of State

In 2012 the use of  
contextual data will be  
particularly important...

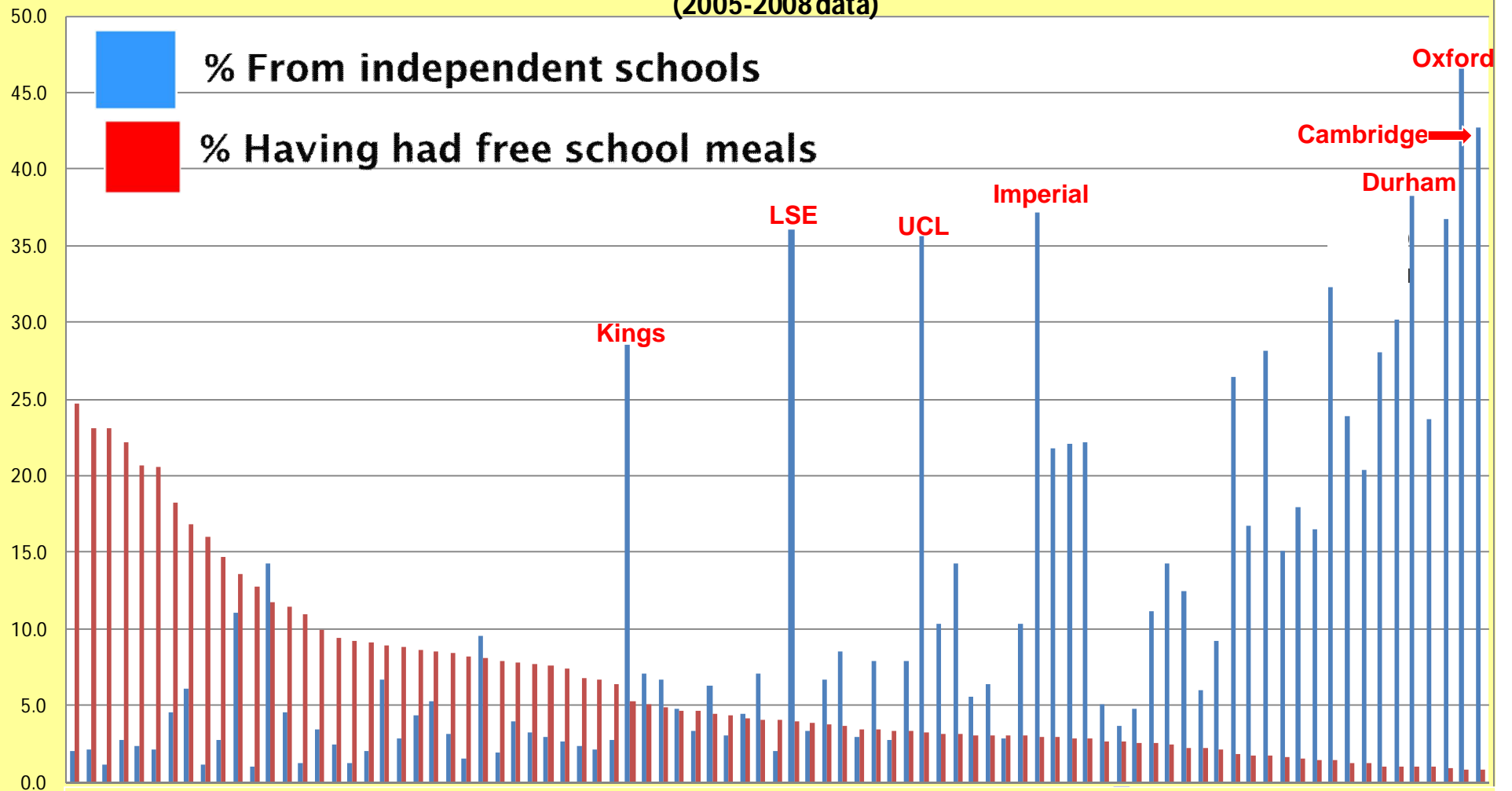
**%FSM & Independent Education**  
(2005-2008 data)



**% From independent schools**



**% Having had free school meals**





## Students... often P/T, mature, work-based learners

- P/T U/G – finance
- WP for P/G students
- Work-based learners



# Societal benefits of HE:



# In summary...

## Good news:

- focus on social mobility
- better information for prospective students
- access spend
- fair access

## Less good news:

- unintended consequences of AAB and core & margin
- annual access measurements & primary work
- too much focus on fair access?
- not enough on P/G, mature, work-place learners?

# OUTLINE

1. The context
2. The HE White Paper – the good news & the less good news
3. Summary





