

Invitation to Ruskin College event 'Who should go to higher education? on the 30th March 2023 with Matt Western MP, Shadow Minister for Higher Education

Dear colleagues,

I hope you are well. I would like to invite you to the first of the Ruskin College, Oxford Seminar series 2023 events '**Who should go to higher education?** on the **30th of March 2023**. The lead speaker at the event will be **Matt Western MP, Shadow Minister for Higher Education**. Other speakers confirmed so far are:

- **Justine Greening**, Chair, The Purpose Coalition and ex-Secretary of State for Education
- **Steve Coulter**, Head of Industrial Strategy, Skills and Sustainability, Tony Blair Institute for Global Change
- **Professor Peter John**, Vice Chancellor, University of West London and Principal Ruskin College, Oxford

Further speakers are to be confirmed.

The event is an opportunity to gather insights into how higher education policy is developing in England as we approach the next election from key policymakers and thinkers. It will bring together an invited audience from across higher education and the wider public/private sectors and will give insights into the future of policies in this area.

The event is convened by the National Education Opportunities Network (NEON) which is the national organisation for widening access to higher education and Ruskin College, Oxford. Ruskin has a long history in thought leadership in access and participation in higher education and since 2021 has been part of the University of West London group. It is also supported by the Universities Association for Lifelong Learning (UALL).

The event will start at 3pm and end at 5.15 followed by an informal drinks reception. The questions that will be explored at this event will include:

- What percentage of young people should enter higher education in order to maximise the benefits to the economy and society in England of higher education participation?
- Does the present mix of subjects available to students in higher education offer best set of choices for students, economy and society?
- How can we ensure all students with the potential to benefit from HE enter regardless of their background?
- How can higher education participation contribute to addressing regional skill needs and contribute to levelling up?
- To what extent does higher education need to be part of a coherent system of lifelong learning and offer opportunities for older learners and is this happening at present?

Places at this event are strictly limited so please can you confirm whether or not you are able to participate as soon as you can and by the **23rd February**. To confirm participation, please complete the [booking form here](#).

I hope you will be able to participate in this important and timely event.

Very best wishes

Graeme

Professor Graeme Atherton

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