

Rt Hon Theresa May MP
Prime Minister's Office
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA



Dear Prime Minister,

The harmful impact of the English Baccalaureate

The Department for Education's proposed new English Baccalaureate (EBacc) is damaging the quality of the education offered to pupils in England. It is harming the uptake of non-EBacc subjects, most notably creative, artistic and technical subjects.

In 2016, for the first time since 2012, the percentage of pupils taking at least one arts subject declined¹ and from 2015-2016 there was an 8% decline in uptake of creative subjects (arts + D&T)²; the largest year on year decline in a decade. Teacher numbers and teaching hours are declining almost twice as fast in creative subjects (whether including D&T or not) as they are overall.³

The Department for Education's consultation on these proposals titled *Implementing the English Baccalaureate* closed more than a year ago and we are still awaiting a response.

As pupils in secondary schools choose their GCSE subject options, we urge you to reverse this damaging policy, respond to the consultation and withdraw the EBacc.

According to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) the creative industries are the fastest-growing part of the UK economy, worth £87.4bn a year to the UK economy, and the creative economy as a whole accounts for one in 11 jobs. You recognise this in your commitment to setting an industrial strategy, outlined on Monday 23 January 2017, which puts the creative sector at its heart.

But we struggle to see a link between the Government's commitment to the creative industries as a central sector for growth with an education policy (the EBacc) which creates an artificial and false hierarchy of subjects, excluding creative, artistic and technical subjects from counting towards key school accountability measures.

¹ Department for Education, 13 October 2016

² Cultural Learning Alliance, 25 August 2016

³ School workforce statistics, Department for Education

With the UK now repositioning itself on the world's stage, the EBacc is no longer relevant; and dropping the un-evidenced and deeply damaging EBacc would come with no political or financial cost but with huge gains to the UK's reputation as a leading creative industries player, our economy and our skills base.

The Bacc for the Future movement represents more than 200 organisations working as investors, educators and creative organisations and more than 100,000 individuals. We urge you to listen to the head teachers, businesses, organisations and creators who oppose this policy. This includes the Royal Institute of British Architects, BRIT School, Design Council, Music Industries Association, and Creative Industries Federation. We place a high value on the creative industries.

We urge you to publish the consultation response without delay and look forward to your announcement that the government has listened and is reversing the EBacc policy.

Yours sincerely,

The Bacc for the Future campaign, including:

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| Sir Simon Rattle | Conductor | |
| Alison Balsom OBE | Musician | |
| Robert Lindsay | Actor | |
| Phillip Pullman | Author | |
| Sir John Eliot Gardiner | Conductor | |
| Sir Tony Robinson | Actor | |
| Philip Flood | Director | Sound Connections |
| David Martin | Executive Director | Oldham Coliseum Theatre |
| James Otter | Director | Potclays Ltd |
| Wozzy Brewster OBE | Executive Director | Midi Music company |
| Gilane Tawadros | Chief Executive | DACS |
| Paul McManus | Chief Executive | Music Industries Association (MIA) |
| Dick Hallam MBE | Chair | Music Education Council (MEC) |
| Neil Griffiths | Co-founder | Arts Emergency |
| Linda Ewen | Programme Manager | Arts Emergency |
| Carys Nelkon | Service Manager | Arts Emergency |
| Christine Payne | General Secretary | Equity |
| Jacqui Cameron | Education Director | Opera North |
| Deborah Annetts | Chief Executive | Incorporated Society of Musicians (ISM) |
| Rebecca Farkas | | Artist and arts professional |
| Jane Wilson | Chair | Arts Development UK (ADUK) |
| Sir Mark Featherstone-Witty OBE | Founding Principal/CEO | The Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts (LIPA) |
| Amanda Skoog | Executive Director | Shobana Jeyasingh Dance |
| Patricia Lovett MBE | Vice Chair | Heritage Crafts Association |
| Sho Shibata | Executive Producer | Stopgap Dance Company |
| Neil Constable | Chief Executive | Shakespeare's Globe |
| Professor Anthony Bowne | Principal | Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance |
| Lesley Butterworth | General Secretary | National Society for Education in Art and Design (NSEAD) |
| Sarah Gee | Managing Partner | Indigo-Ltd |
| Jeanie Scott | Executive Director | a-n The Artists Information Company (Paying Artists Campaign) |

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| Leslie East | Chair | Association of British Choral Directors (ABCD) |
| Michael Eakin | Chief Executive | Royal Liverpool Philharmonic |
| Daniella Gluck | Founder | Black Dress Code |
| David Chernaik | CEO | Apollo Music Projects |
| Paul Smith | Chairman | Choir Schools' Association |
| Ivor Flint | Chair | Association of Teachers of Singing (AOTOS) |
| Mark Pemberton | Director | Association of British Orchestras (ABO) |
| Professor Gavin Henderson CBE | Principal | The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama |
| Elizabeth Stafford | Director | Music Education Solutions |
| Henry Fagg | Director | The Tutor Pages Ltd |
| Andrew Hurst | Chief Executive | One Dance UK |
| Chris Keates | General Secretary | NASUWT |
| Mary Bousted | General Secretary | Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL) |
| Julian Bird | Chief Executive | UK Theatre and SOLT |
| Stuart Worden | Principal | BRIT school |
| Judith Ackrill | Head | LSO Discovery |
| Patrice Baldwin | Past Chair | National Drama |
| | Past President | International Theatre, Drama and Education Association (IDEA) |
| Dominic McGonigal | Chair | C8 Associates |
| Saffron van Zwanenberg | Artistic Director | Jackdaws Music Education Trust |
| John Padley | Principal Director of Music | Queen Anne's School |
| Polly Staple | Director | Chisenhale Gallery |
| Geoffrey Harniess | Head | The Centre for Young Musicians |
| Joe Scotland | Director | Studio Voltaire |
| Fiona Watson | Director | Gabriele Skelton |
| Peter Heath | Managing Director | PLASA |
| Dr Claire Mera-Nelson | Director of Music | Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance |
| Alice Barnard | Chief Executive | Edge Foundation |
| Rosemary Johnson | Executive Director | Royal Philharmonic Society |
| Simon Terry | Director | Anglepoise |
| Siobhan Davies | Artistic Director | Siobhan Davies Dance |
| Stephen Lumsden | Managing Director | Intermusica |
| Ed Scolding | Director | Greenwich Music School |
| Martyn Brabbins | Music Director | English National Opera (ENO) |
| Vicky Prior | Director | League of Culture |
| Sue Beckett | Chief Executive Officer | Portsmouth Music Hub |
| Gemma Bodinetz | Artistic Director | Everyman and Playhouse |
| Paul Hobson | Director | Modern Art Oxford |
| Helen Legg | Director | Spike Island, Bristol |
| Kevin Courtney | General Secretary | National Union of Teachers (NUT) |
| Dr John Habron | Head of Music Education | Royal Northern College of Music |
| Lhosa Daly | Chair | Bristol Institute of Directors (IoD) |
| Isabelle Doran | Chairperson | British Association of Picture Libraries & Agencies |
| Jenni Lomax OBE | Director | Camden Arts Centre |
| Sam Thorne | Director | Nottingham Contemporary |
| Dave Moutrey | Director and CEO | HomeMcr |

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| Achim Borchardt-Hume | Director of Exhibitions | Tate Modern |
| Victoria Pomery OBE | Director | Turner Contemporary |
| Fin Kennedy | Artistic Director | Tamasha Theatre Company |
| Donna Lynas | Director | Wysing Arts Centre |
| Sally Tallant | Director | Liverpool Biennial |
| Barbara Eifler | Executive Director | Making Music |
| Sally Shaw | Director | Firstsite Gallery |
| Paul Hoskins | Music Director | Rambert |
| Emeritus Professor Stephen Lacey | Chair | Standing Conference of University Drama Departments (SCUDD) |
| Jo Towler | Executive Director | Candoco Dance Company |
| Dr Maria Balshaw CBE | Director | the Whitworth, The University of Manchester |
| Alice Demba | Coordinator | Liverpool Cultural Education Partnership and the Liverpool Learning Partnership |
| Andrew Chowns | Chief Executive | Directors UK |
| Jay Deeble | Past Chair | Schools Music Association |
| | Chair | Dalcroze Society |
| John Wilson | Conductor | |
| Nicholas Collon | Conductor | |
| Charlotte Jones | Chief Executive Officer | Independent Theatre Council (ITC) |
| Julia Fitzelle | Head of Learning and Participation | Rambert |
| Kate Mason | Director | The Big Draw |
| Paula Graham-Gazzard | Policy & External Relations Manager | Council for Higher Education in Art & Design (CHEAD) |
| Michael Smith | Founding Director | Cog Design |
| Vicky Ireland MBE | Vice-Chair | Action for Children's Arts |
| Susie Crow | Chair | Exuberant Trust |
| Adam Milford | Director | Theatre Workout Ltd |
| David Wood OBE | Trustee | Action for Children's Arts |
| James Murphy | Managing Director | Southbank Sinfonia |
| Danyah Miller | Director | Wizard Presents Theatre Company |
| Roger McGough CBE | Poet, broadcaster, writer, children's author | |
| Susan Whiddington | Director | Mousetrap Theatre Projects |
| Nigel Burrows | Manager | Yamaha Music Schools Education |
| Lucinda Mackworth-Young | Director | The Piano Teachers' Course, EPTA UK |
| Murray McLachlan | Chairman | European Piano Teachers' Association UK (EPTA UK) |
| Dr Michael Pritchard FRPS | Chief Executive | The Royal Photographic Society |
| Lynne Reid Banks | Author | |
| Matthew Linley | Artistic Director / Chief Executive | Unity Theatre Liverpool |
| Michelle Magorian | Author | |
| Malorie Blackman | Author and ex UK Children's Laureate | |
| Nick Brook | Deputy General Secretary | National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) |
| Jamila Gavin | Author | |
| Kate Prince | Artistic Director | ZooNation Dance Company |
| Chantal Spiteri | Managing Director/Producer | ZooNation Dance Company |

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| DJ Walde | Musical Director | ZooNation Dance Company |
| Annie Taylor-Gooby | General Manager | ZooNation Dance Company |
| David Almond | Author | |
| Michael Foreman | Author and Illustrator | |
| Louise Foreman | | |
| Ruth Gould MBE | Artistic Director | DaDaFest |
| Karen Gallagher MBE | Artistic Director | MDI (Merseyside Dance Initiative) |
| Felicity Dahl | | |
| Michael Rosen | Writer, Broadcaster, Professor | |
| Aine Lark | Chair | National Drama and Kingston Arts |
| Dr Helen Charman | Director Learning and Research | The Design Museum |
| Chris Romer-Lee | Director & Co-Founder | Studio Octopi & Thames Baths C.I.C. |
| Dr Julie Nugent | CEO | Design and Technology Association |
| Lynne Reid Banks | Author | |
| Margot Heller | Director | South London Gallery |
| Simon Bates | COO | Manifesto Digital |
| Sara Raybould | Director | London College of Music |
| Naomi Alexander | Artistic Director | Brighton People's Theatre |
| Dr Helen Julia Minors | Chair | National Association for Music in Higher Education (NAMHE) |

Reply to: **BaccfortheFuture@ism.org** or in writing to Bacc for the Future, 4-5
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