

## **An Update on Education Outside the Classroom Manifesto**

**Colleagues, as the new school year gets underway, we wanted to bring you up to date with progress on the Education Outside the Classroom Manifesto over the summer.**

We now have a provisional date and venue for the launch of the Manifesto ' 28th November, at the Natural History museum' - as ever this is subject to change. At this event we intend to publish a short 'glossy' that sets out the vision and aims for the Manifesto, and to illustrate some of the many activities that can contribute to these learning experiences.

Work on the publication is underway, and our thanks to Tony Thomas, Rita Gardner, Stuart Nundy, David Lambert, Bill Graham and NASUWT colleagues who have helped with the drafting so far. If anyone else would like to contribute, please let us know. We will make sure that Sector Group Chairs have had an opportunity to see the document before it is published.

As you know, partnership is the underlying driver for the Manifesto. Together we will create momentum and energy to bring about the sea change that will mean many more young people experiencing education outside the classroom. We think it is important that this partnership should be visible and sizeable by the time the Manifesto is launched so schools and parents feel this is something of substance. The Department will be making its own pledges in support of the Manifesto. We also need to put in place a body that can take on the implementation of the Manifesto, and this too should be well on the way by the time that Manifesto is launched so that work can begin.

Many of you will know the DfES team handling the Manifesto development is small, and we have a large task ahead of us. We are very grateful to everyone that has helped informally so far and hope we can count on you in the future. We are very pleased that we have secured two additional people to help make the Manifesto happen, both seconded on a part time basis from their respective organisations.

Peter Carne joins us from Learning through Landscapes, where he was previously the Director of Operations. Peter is well known to many of you for his expertise in school grounds development and early years. He brings with him also a wealth of experience in education outside the classroom more broadly from his background as a geography teacher and then head of an environmental centre.

Mike Tones joins us from Durham LA where he heads up the outdoor education and sustainable development service. Mike brings with him an intimate knowledge of how schools function and how education outside the classroom can make a profound and valuable contribution to young people's growth and learning.

Peter and Mike will spend much of their time talking to you, to find out what you feel really matters and seeking to get each partner organisation to formally 'sign up' to the Manifesto vision and aims; and to pledge how your organisations will contribute. They will be talking to teachers, Heads and Local Authorities as well, so we ensure that the Manifesto responds to their needs.

We are delighted to have their expertise on hand to help bring the development work to fruition, and we know that you will welcome the prospect of these two well respected people acting as 'Champions' on your behalf.

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