

Socialist Educational Association/Raymond Williams Foundation.

POLITICIANS, EDUCATION & EQUALITY

A day school for discussion and analysis with

Professor Diane Reay (Cambridge University)

Martin Allen (author *A lost Generation?*)

Sam Tarry (Chair, Young Labour)

Estoril House, Wedgwood Memorial College, Barlaston, Stoke, ST12 9DG

Saturday 26th February 2011, 11am to 6pm.

“Rich thick kids do better than bright poor working class ones” (Michael Gove):

What is the core problem of inequality? How far can politicians improve education: are Coalition politics aimed at reducing the class gap: or are their efforts futile? What about the class gap? The growing achievement gap between the classes – why opened up under New Labour? What role does the paradigm of marketisation and government interference in education play?

Why do we have a problem of NEETs – Not in Education, Employment or Training – is this a result of the paradigm? Is there a “lost generation”? The role of schools – can school compensate for society? What happened to the comprehensive movement? Raymond Williams ideal of the Common Culture embodied in the comprehensive school: was this destroyed by Thatcher and the rise of inequality in a post social democratic paradigm?

How is it possible to recreate an egalitarian thrust for the education system, (and not just state education) under the coalition and beyond - just getting a Labour government not enough as 1997-2010 showed – what more is needed? Discussion will question the possibilities of a socially just education system in the current UK economic and social context, while attempting to explore what such a system would be, and the changes that are required to bring it about.

For more details or to sign up write to SEA/RWF at Viewpoint, PO Box 3354, Stafford ST16 3DB

Registration: £16 for members SEA and RWF, £21 non members, £10 unwaged. Cheques made payable to Socialist Educational Association at the above address – don't forget your contact details!

For background papers and information email trevor.fisher2@gmail.com

Facilities: semi residential. Bookings for accomodation (£33.60/39.60 ppn) and evening meal (£12 pp) by personal arrangement via the conference organisers. Contact us to discuss what you require. Coffee/tea/biscuits/lunch included in the registration fee. Accomodation and evening meal separate.