

Education and Lifelong Learning Committee

Date: 13 October 2005
Time: 9.00am
Title : Minister's Report

This report updates the Committee on specific issues raised by members and on issues of current interest. **Annex A** sets out major engagements since the last report

1. Anti Bullying Week

The 'Respecting Others week' will be launched on Monday 10th October at St Teilo's CIW High School, Cardiff.

The aim of this anti-bullying week is to bring to the fore the issues surrounding bullying and to celebrate the good work that schools are already undertaking to tackle bullying.

Schools can become involved in a number of ways, for example by promoting the issues surrounding bullying through assemblies or the curriculum. They can also participate in a competition to design a poster and classroom charter which I also launched on Monday. This competition is for primary and secondary school pupils, with the winning designs distributed to all schools in Wales. The poster will provide advice and contact details for children and young people if they are being bullied or if they know of someone else who is being bullied and want to help.

'Respecting Others week' is also intended to raise awareness of a number of projects underway to help combat bullying in schools in Wales. These include:

- The Welsh Assembly Government's Summary report of the Assessment of School Anti-bullying policies and emerging findings from the Estyn study on good practice in schools.
- The Welsh Anti-Bullying Network, who will hold their first meeting on 17th October 2005.
- The development of Information for Children and Young People on what they should do if they are being bullied, who they can turn to and also how they may help others who are being bullied.

The week is supported by a website launched in partnership with the Welsh Anti-Bullying Network. This website includes details of the Network Members involvement in the week, links to their own websites which provide advice and materials for tackling many aspects of bullying, and details of activities being undertaken to support 'Respecting Others' week in schools across Wales.

2. ELWa/ACCAC Progress Report

On 27 September further detailed draft structures were issued for consultation with staff in the following areas:

- Communications
- Marketing within Economic Development and Transport
- Intelligence, Marketing, Research and Analysis within Education and Lifelong Learning
- Legal Services
- Food Directorate
- HR (Facilities)

The Joint Negotiating Forum has agreed to reduce the consultation period to 4 weeks for these outstanding structures in order to bring the implementation of the deployment process more closely into line with other merging Departments. The deadline for responses is Tuesday 25 October. However, the Unions have reserved the right to request a full 8-week consultation period if necessary. The final Deployment Protocol, agreed by the Joint Negotiating Forum, was published on Thursday 29 September. The protocol describes the procedure which will transfer people into the new departmental structures (including those who move to central Assembly Government Departments) from existing Assembly Government Departments and ASPBs.

Work on the detailed structure of the new ELL Department, taking into account the detailed comments made during the consultation on that, is continuing. This includes work to benchmark the structure against planned provision. The final structure will be published shortly

Recruitment adverts for a number of senior posts in the structure (Directors for Children and Schools Group, Lifelong learning and Skills Group and the Higher Learning Group, and the Head of the Business Development Division) were issued at the end of September.

3. External Evaluation of the Welsh Bac

It has always been my intention that the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification (WBQ) be fully evaluated to ensure that we have the best possible framework of study to offer to our students.

The University of Bath was appointed by the WJEC to carry out an internal evaluation of the WBQ and data has been collected from the initial preparatory year of September 2002 and will continue to be collected until the end of the pilot in 2007.

The internal evaluation aims to:

- Observe and explore elements of the WBQ in progress
- Inform stakeholders of developments, and
- Provide data for an external evaluation

In addition to this, the Assembly Government has now commissioned an external evaluation of the effectiveness of the WBQ Pilot. This review will provide the Assembly with an independent view of the full costs and benefits of the WBQ and will build on the internal evaluation, which the University of Bath are delivering.

The Assembly advertised for Expressions of Interest for the external evaluation on the Buy4 Wales site in July 2005 and subsequently issued a formal invitation to tender to interested organisations in August. Firm bids were then received in August. I am pleased to confirm that the contract for the external evaluation has been awarded to cdel – the University of Nottingham School of Education, Centre for Developing and Evaluating Lifelong Learning.

Work on the external evaluation will commence very soon. It will run until late May 2006.

The external evaluation will focus on:

- The design of the WBQ
- The delivery and implementation thereof
- The impact of the WBQ on students and stakeholders

An interim report will be submitted to me in December 2005 and the final report will be submitted in May next year. The findings of the external evaluation will help me to make informed, evidence based decisions about whether the WBQ should be rolled out to all schools and colleges from September 2007 and the best way to carry this forward.

4. Accreditation of Community Youth and Play Workers

The accreditation of Community, Youth and Play is currently carried out by the Education Training Standards Committee of Wales (ETS). This Committee is supported by the Wales Youth Agency. The Committee has been given devolved responsibility through an agreement developed in conjunction with the Joint Negotiating Committee for England and Wales (JNC), The Welsh Assembly Government, Department for Education and Skills (UK Government) and the Wales Youth Agency.

I have made a commitment to the Board of the Wales Youth Agency and to the sector that the work of the ETS will continue in Wales from the 1st January 2006. The work of the ETS is vital in maintaining professional standards in the three sector areas. The Assembly Government has consulted with the

ETS on its requirements from 1st January 2006. My officials will meet the Chair of the ETS in Wales on the 10th October to discuss a set of proposals based on the views received from the consultation on how the work of the Committee will be supported. Any final agreement will also need the agreement of the ETS committee in Wales and that of the JNC.

Within the new structure proposed for the Youth and Adult Learning Opportunities Division, a number of officials will have responsibilities for supporting the work of the ETS and also organisations wishing to gain accreditation via the committee.

I will provide a further update to the Committee when all the parties involved have agreed a final set of proposals.

5. UK Presidency Events in Wales on Youth and Valorisation

UK Presidency of the EU 2005: Youth Event

As part of the UK Presidency of the European Union, the Welsh Assembly Government is hosting the EU Youth Event on behalf of the UK government. The event, which coincides with the meeting of the Directors General for Education, also to be held in Cardiff, will bring together young people from across Europe to talk about youth issues and exchange ideas about how to encourage youth participation.

Event Programme

The event programme required a balance to be struck between the objectives/priorities of the EU Commission, based on the implementation of the European Youth White Paper, *'An Impetus for Youth'*, specifically the common objectives for participation by, and information for, young people, and those of the UK government/devolved administrations. The Youth Event must seek to build on past youth events (Ireland, March 2004; Netherlands, November 2004; and Luxembourg, June 2005) and prepare the way for future youth events (Austria, Finland 2006). It should not seek to showcase the host country's policies or activities. Rather, it should reflect practice on a pan-European level in order to inform the reporting process - Member States' next reports on meeting the common objectives are due in December 2005.

Update on Progress

- the event will be held over the period 25-27 October 2005 (though young people will begin arriving in Wales on 24 October);
- the main venue for the event will be Cardiff City Hall, but there are also events in the programme scheduled to take place at the National Museum and the Coal Exchange in Cardiff Bay.
- approximately 100 young people from EU Member States and EFTA and Accession Countries will attend;

- two residential sessions have been held in Cardiff and Swansea; bringing together young people from across the UK to discuss and agree on their ambassadorial role during the event, and how best to make it as young person focused as possible.
- we have held discussions with the European Youth Forum (they will play a major role in the event) and other key Member States, particularly Ireland and the Netherlands (whose youth events were held in March and November 2004 respectively), and Luxembourg and Austria (which follow the UK's presidency);
- we have established contact with the organisers of the World Youth Congress which was held in Scotland in July/August 2005, and attendees to this event will be giving delegates an overview of the conference during the Youth Event.
- The total expected cost of the event is £200,000. This will be shared between the EU Commission, DfES and the Assembly Government.

UK Presidency Of The EU: 'Mobilising Experience' Conference, Cardiff, 29-30 November 2005

I reported to the Committee in April that Wales had been asked by the European Commission to host a conference on valorisation – the dissemination and exploitation of information and results of education and lifelong learning projects – during the UK Presidency this year. This conference will take place in Cardiff at the end of November. People from across the EU have expressed an interest in attending.

This conference is being supported financially by the European Commission and invitations have been issued to experts, educationalists, officials and interested parties across EU member states, accession and candidate countries. Speakers will include Allan Wilson MSP, Deputy Minister for Enterprise and Lifelong Learning at the Scottish Executive, Professor Paolo Federighi of the University of Florence, and senior officials of the European Commission.

The aim of the conference is to inform the Commission's planned guidance on dissemination and exploitation of experience in a range of European programmes, and we are planning an agenda that will make the most of the expertise of those attending. Our membership of EARLALL, the European Association of Regional and Local Authorities for Lifelong Learning, will also help to add to this guidance, which is likely to be a compulsory part of the Integrated and Lifelong Learning Programme from 2007.

EARLALL

On 15 September I attended the bi-annual General Assembly meeting of EARLALL (the European Association of Regional and Local Authorities for Lifelong Learning) in Mainz, Germany. I am pleased to report that membership of EARLALL continues to grow and that this meeting saw the admission of Baden Wurttemberg, Brittany and the Swedish region of Jamtlands into the Association. The meeting was also attended by

representatives of three pan- European practitioner associations, namely FREREF, EAEA and EFVET, as well as a senior official of the Commission's DG Education and Culture. Further applications for membership from another French region, a Dutch region and a Finnish region are also in prospect. It was agreed that due to the continuing growth of the Association, EARLALL would need to develop more structured ways of working in order to retain and strengthen its political focus.

During the meeting the EARLALL Board for the Association's third term was elected. The vacant position of Presidency was filled by Kent Johansson of the Vastra Gotalands region in Sweden, and I was pleased to be re-elected as one of two Vice Presidents, along with Gianfranco Simoncini of Tuscany. Otto Jorgensen of Vejle County, Denmark, was retained as Treasurer as was the Board member from Andalucia.

In the course of the meeting, a work plan for the Association's next term was discussed. It was agreed that this would include an EARLALL response to the Commission's consultation on the European Qualifications Framework, and that Wales would take on lead on this in conjunction with colleagues from Scotland. It was also agreed that working groups of EARLALL members would be convened to further consider EARLALL's position on the future development of ESF and the prospective integrated EU Lifelong Learning programme. Wales will be participating in the former and leading the latter.

The senior official of the Commission spoke about developments of the Integrated Lifelong Learning Programme due to be introduced in 2007. She emphasised that the Commission was looking to EARLALL for assistance in developing various aspects of valorisation process and policy for the new programme. It was therefore agreed that EARLALL would develop proposals relating to the 'Transversal strand' of the new programme and on the dissemination and exploitation of programme results. These proposals would be developed by the working group that Wales would lead and through discussion at the Mobilising Experience conference that Wales is hosting in November as part of the UK Presidency.

A number of members reported significant lifelong learning developments with their regions and I was able to update the Association on Welsh initiatives including Community Focussed Schools, the Welsh Baccalaureate, and the 'Words talk, numbers count' strategy. Finally progress on a number of current inter-regional projects was reported and the Association agreed to support a number of new projects across a range of lifelong learning issues.

This was another constructive and successful meeting of the Association and I am delighted that EARLALL continues to mature into an active and cohesive organisation with the potential to play an important role in shaping both policy and practice in lifelong learning throughout the European Union.

European Qualifications Framework Conference

I attended a conference in Glasgow on 22 September on the proposals for a European Qualifications Framework (EQF), hosted by the Scottish executive as part of the UK Presidency of the EU, where I made the opening speech on behalf of the UK. This event provided a good opportunity for discussion on

the European Commission's proposals for such a framework, which will enable qualification systems at national and sectoral levels to be related to one another and should go a long way towards increasing understanding, trust and transparency between member states, but also to set out our own experience in creating the Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales. It was clear that we are ahead of the game on such frameworks and delegates were interested in the lessons Wales has learned in putting together the CQFW and their application to the wider European stage.

6. Initial Teacher Training Incentives

The Welsh Assembly Government offers initial teacher training incentives using its powers under sections 14 to 17 of the Education Act 2002 in specific areas in order to:-

- help attract the best quality, highly committed students to train and teach in Wales, particularly onto courses where there is or may be difficulty recruiting
- provide an incentive for those studying priority subjects to go on to teach those subjects.

The training grant currently available provides all eligible students on postgraduate initial teacher training courses in Wales a £6,000 grant. For eligible students on postgraduate mathematics and science initial teacher training courses, this grant is £7,000.

Under the current teaching grant arrangements, eligible students who qualify and go on to teach in technology, modern foreign languages, English or Welsh (as a second language) may also be entitled to a £4,000 teaching grant following the successful completion of their Induction period. Eligible students entering PGCE courses from September 2005 onwards who qualify and go on to teach in mathematics and science teachers may also be entitled to a £5,000 teaching grant following the successful completion of their Induction period.

The Department for Education and Skills has announced changes to the initial teacher training incentives available in England for courses starting in September 2006.

I announced on 23 September new initial teacher training incentives available in Wales for courses starting in September 2006. The new incentives aim to continue to attract some of the best graduates into teaching. Trainees in priority secondary subjects will be eligible for more money and, for the first time, there will be extra incentives for music and RE trainees.

For trainees starting PGCE courses in September 2006 the new package of incentives available in Wales is as follows:-

- eligible secondary maths and science PGCE trainees will receive a £7,200 training grant and a £5,000 teaching grant
- eligible trainees on PGCE courses covering other priority secondary subjects will receive a £7,200 training grant and a £2,500 teaching grant. The other priority subjects (modern languages, design and technology, ICT, English

(including drama) and Welsh as a second language) will now also include music and RE

- eligible trainees on all other secondary PGCE courses (including art, geography, history, PE) and all primary PGCE courses will receive a £4,200 training grant.

The incentives on offer in Wales take account of the fact that tuition fee finances in Wales are different from those in England. The new package of incentives will ensure that Welsh students will benefit from the same level of support (incentives combined with funding towards tuition fees) as those in England. Full details are contained at annex B.

These grants mean that Welsh students deciding where to train as teachers can make that choice knowing that if they study in Wales they will have the same level of incentives as those in England. They also enable teacher training providers in Wales to compete effectively for the most talented applicants.

7. Higher Education Update

Following on from the National Assembly's agreement on tuition fees on 22 June work has been underway on a number of fronts to prepare for the new tuition fee regime that will be introduced in Wales for the academic year 2007/08.

- **Supplementary Income Stream** - the draft budget published on 27 September includes provision of £30 million to cover the cost of the Supplementary Income Stream (SIS) for the HE sector in the academic year 2007/08 (of which £20 million is allocated to 2006-07 and £10 million in 2007-08). The SIS reflects the Assembly Government commitment that institutions in Wales should not be financially disadvantaged by the introduction of tuition fees in England in 2006/07. The model for calculating the final SIS figure is being developed in conjunction with the sector.
- **Comparative Funding Analysis** - following on from the 22 June announcement HEFCW has been commissioned to provide an analysis of HE funding levels in Wales compared to the rest of the UK. HEFCW's initial work is the subject of continuing dialogue at official level. Once this work is complete and in a state to be published we will circulate copies to members of this committee.
- **National Bursary Scheme** - officials have been in discussion with representatives from the sector in order to develop the content and operational details of the National Bursary Scheme. We are expecting to receive formal proposals from the sector on this very shortly. Further briefing for committee members will be provided once this has been received.
- **Part-time review** - the review of part-time studies under Dr Heather Graham is now underway. Members will remember that the review was charged with producing a report, together with relevant evidence, designed to inform Welsh Assembly Government and Higher

Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) decisions about policy regarding student support and financing of part-time HE provision, and to make recommendations regarding appropriate fee levels and student support measures for part-time students, in the light of the new arrangements in Wales for full-time students. The review group has now had three meetings.

8. Beaufort Research Report

The Basic Skills Agency commissioned Beaufort Research to conduct a survey of Welsh speaking adults across Wales to assess their reading and writing proficiency. Over 1,300 16-64 year old Welsh speakers were interviewed throughout Wales between March and September 2004. The vast majority of fluent Welsh speakers (79%) have at least Level 1 literacy skills and half of all fluent Welsh speakers have literacy skills at or above Level 2. For all Welsh speakers, including those who only speak a little Welsh, 59% had literacy skills at level 1 or above. This lower rate of literacy is to be expected amongst this group. Welsh is not the first language for many of them, so they would have less experience of reading and writing Welsh. In the survey those from the South East region of Wales tended to perform better in the reading and writing tests. This may be the result of young graduates located in the South East (44 percent of South East respondents had at least a degree or equivalent qualification compared with 28% per cent in other parts of Wales).

The results also show higher levels of literacy amongst young Welsh speakers (aged 16-24).. Over 70 per cent of 16-24 year olds were at Level 1 or above. The lowest literacy levels (50 per cent at level 1) were amongst 35-44 year olds). The web link to the research is

http://www.basic-skills-wales.org/bsastrategy/en/resources/post_16/assessing_proficiency_in_reading_and_writing_welsh.cfm

9. The Welsh Assembly Government Community Focussed School Grant

The Welsh Assembly Government's vision for Wales is of schools at the heart of their community providing a range of community focused facilities and activities to meet the needs of pupils, their families and the local community during the school day and out of school hours, at weekends and during school holidays. This vision was set out in *The Learning Country*.

In December 2003, I issued guidance in Circular No 34/2003 *Community Focused Schools* to assist schools and their key partners to develop a community focus. The guidance sets out what is meant by a community focused school, what activities/facilities a school might provide, consultation with partners, and the practical issues a school needs to consider in providing community services.

The Welsh Assembly Government is providing funding of £3m in 2005-06 and in each of the following two financial years to support schools in developing a community focus.

Consultation on the criteria for the use of the funding and on the grant administration arrangements took place from 13 May 2005 to 24 June 2005. 33 responses were received: 18 from local authorities; 3 from school staff; 3 from headteachers; NAHT; Estyn; ELWa; Vale of Glamorgan Children and Young Peoples Partnership; ContinYou; NUT Cymru; ADEW; Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations; and the Welsh Language Society.

Final guidance on the criteria for the use of the grant and the administration arrangements was issued to LEAs on 23 September 2005 in the light of consultation responses. The purpose of the grant is to assist LEAs and schools with the development of community focused schools to provide services, activities and facilities for the community. LEAs will administer the grant and I am aiming to support projects that

- will lead to further community focused developments not funded under the Assembly government grant initiative;
- are exemplar projects that are innovative and can be used as models of good practice for other schools or LEAs;
- or only involve 'start up' costs with any on-going running costs being met from other funding or from charges.

The grant arrangements require that LEAs will submit reports on the use of the funding by 31 December each year so I can monitor use of the funding.

10. Improving Numeracy

Mathcymru's Maths Week 2005

This week is Maths Week, the fourth annual event managed by Mathcymru. It follows immediately after a major conference held by the Basic Skills Agency to launch their delivery plan for our new basic skills strategy, Words Talk, Numbers Count.

Maths Week is designed to boost the profile of maths amongst young people and the event includes:

- support for schools to run maths based activities and events;
- specialist lectures aimed at pupils aged 15-18 at venues throughout Wales;
- maths roadshows funded by Mathcymru and delivered at selected primary schools throughout Wales.

Information about the events during maths week are publicised on the Mathcymru's website: www.mathcymru.org.uk

Maths Week is just one element of Mathcymru, a national campaign to promote mathematics to young people and raise standards of attainment in schools managed and run for the Assembly by Techniquet. The programme of activities for 2005-06 builds on the momentum established during the previous three years and includes roadshows that draw clusters of secondary and primary schools together and the NRICH project, which provides specialist support for secondary schools to support the teaching of Maths in Key Stage 3.

As part of its remit for 2004-05, Estyn was asked to carry out an evaluation of the Mathcymru project. The report concluded that overall, Mathcymru is a well managed and worthwhile project and has the potential to expand its activities and have a long-term impact across Wales. The report has been published by Estyn on the Inspectorate's website www.estyn.gov.uk

In the drive to raise standards in numeracy the Basic Skills Agency works closely with Mathcymru. The Agency is represented on the Steering Group which oversees the project and develops a programme of activities including the main event – Wales Maths Week

'Words Talk, Numbers Count'

I published the Assembly Government's *Words Talk, Numbers Count* Strategy in April and I was delighted to announce that the Basic Skills Agency had won a competitive tender to be our strategic delivery partner. The Agency has now agreed with us its delivery plan for the Strategy which was published to coincide with a major conference on 7 October at which I spoke. Numeracy is, of course, a major part of the Strategy, and is supported by events such as

Maths Week. The Basic Skills Agency is planning a national promotion campaign for early 2006, focused on improving numeracy. In addition to national and local publicity, the Agency will issue packs for parents to play number games with their young children, as well as self-help packs for adults. The Agency will also support the BBC's England and Wales literacy campaign, which has just started, by producing material to complement and extend what the BBC is doing, particularly with materials aimed at Welsh speakers.

Minister's Engagements 21 September-12th October

21 September

MTG with Disability Rights Commissioner, NafW

22 September

SPCH UK Presidency Conference on European Qualification Frameworks, Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow

27 September

MTG with John Furlong on ITT Review, NafW

28th September

MTG with Fforwm, NafW

MTG with Children's Commissioner, NafW

MTG with Autism Cymru, NafW

MTG With Professional Association of Teachers, NafW

SPCH Lifelong Learning UK Sector Skills Council Launch, Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff

29th September

SPCH- EARLALL General Assembly, Guesthouse of the State Government, Mainz, Germany

3rd October

MTG With Wales ASEA, NafW

MTG with British Association of Teachers of the Deaf Wales, NafW

MTG with Primary Umbrella Group, City Hall, Cardiff

GTCW Annual Lecture, Reardon Smith Lecture theatre, National Museum for Wales

MTG with Professor Brighthouse, National Museum for Wales

4th October

MTG with School Workload Advisory Panel, NafW

5th October

SPCH- Fforwm Magu Plant Annual National Conference, Brangwyn Hall, Swansea

Presentation at Axios 'A' Star Awards 2005, Wales Millennium Centre

6th October

Visit to Neath Port Talbot Council in respect of Wales Spatial Plan, Council Offices, Port Talbot Civic Centre,

SPCH -Opening of Extension at Monkton Priory Primary School, Pembrokeshire

SPCH - Cardinal Newman School Website Launch, Wales Millennium Centre

7th October

SPCH - Basic Skills Agency Conference, Holland House Hotel, Cardiff

10th October

SPCH- Launch of Anti Bullying Week, St Teilo's High School, Cardiff

MTG with Chair ELWa, NafW

Visit to Trinity College, Carmarthen

11^h October

SPCH- Opening of Deri View School, Abergavenny

12th October

SPCH-Launch of the National Pupil Database, Burry Port Junior School, Carmarthen

Visit NHS open week event for School Children, Carmarthenshire Leisure Centre

INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING INCENTIVES

Overview

The initial teacher training (ITT) incentives on offer in Wales take account of the fact that tuition fee finances in Wales are different from those in England. Tuition fees in England could add up to £1,800 per person to the cost of training to become a teacher on a PGCE course. So the £7,200 training grant in Wales is the equivalent of the similar £9,000 bursary in England; and the £4,200 training grant in Wales is the equivalent of the similar £6,000 bursary in England. As in England, there will in addition be a £1,200 non-repayable non-means tested element of the maintenance grant available for Welsh domiciled PGCE students.

The fact that the tuition fees elements in Wales and England are different explains the apparent differences between Wales and England in terms of the ITT incentives offered. Students on PGCE courses in their country of domicile get the same level of support overall in both countries.

Details

Variable tuition fees in England in 2006-07 will be up to £3,000. There are a range of mean-tested grants and bursaries available to English domiciled students, including a non-repayable means tested £2,700 maintenance grant. For PGCE students the first £1,200 will not be means tested.

For English domiciled students not eligible for means-tested benefits, tuition fees in England will add up to £1,800 per person to the cost of training to become a teacher on a PGCE course (£3,000 PGCE tuition fees less £1,200 non-repayable non-means tested grant, assuming that students decide to use the grant to pay the £1,200 fees outstanding, rather than taking out a loan for that purpose).

For tuition fees in Wales in 2006-07 there is a fixed tuition fee of £1,200. For 2007-08, there is a flexible fee of up to £3,000. However, students domiciled in Wales who study at a higher education institution in Wales will also be entitled to a non-means tested fee grant of £1,800 which does not have to be repaid. This will leave the effective tuition fee at £1,200. As with England, there will be a means-tested non-repayable maintenance grant, incorporating the Assembly Learning Grant (ALG), of up to £2,700.

The first £1,200 of the new maintenance grant will be available to Welsh domiciled PGCE students on a non-means tested basis. Students may choose to use some or all of this to help pay tuition fees, rather than taking out a student fee loan for that purpose. For Welsh domiciled students, even those not eligible for means-tested benefits, exercising this option would mean that tuition fees would add nothing to the cost of training to become a teacher on a PGCE course.

The funding situation in Wales and England may be different for those eligible for means-tested benefits or other additional support, or where the tuition fee is less than £3,000.

Present (2005-06) grants

Under the current ITT incentives scheme (academic year 2005-06) all eligible students on postgraduate ITT courses can receive a £6,000 training grant (£7,000 for eligible students on postgraduate mathematics and science ITT courses). Payments are made monthly from October to June.

Also under the current scheme, eligible students who qualify and go on to teach in technology, modern foreign languages, English or Welsh may be entitled to a £4,000 teaching grant following the successful completion of their Induction period. Eligible students entering PGCE courses from September 2005 onwards who qualify and go on to teach in mathematics and science teachers may be entitled to a £5,000 teaching grant following the successful completion of their Induction period.