

EMBARGO til 00.01 12th March

Invitation from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation and The Innovation Unit

The Paul Hamlyn Foundation and The Innovation Unit are inviting all secondary schools to apply to work with them to develop innovative approaches to learning and teaching. Following the growth of the Paul Hamlyn Foundation's *Musical Futures* programme which brought learning opportunities and styles from informal settings into the classroom, and building on the work that has been undertaken in The Innovation Unit's Next Practice programme on Personalisation, the Foundation and The Innovation Unit are keen to explore the development and extension of these approaches across all areas of the curriculum.

Baroness Estelle Morris, a trustee of the Paul Hamlyn Foundation and a former Secretary of State for Education, commented: "The strengths I valued in the *Musical Futures* project are its ability to engage and enthuse students, its confidence in embracing the world outside school as a rich source of skills and opportunities to learn and to recognise achievement on a broad canvas. The big question is can we build this in other areas of the curriculum?"

Letters are being sent to all secondary schools this week. Schools will be offered the chance to apply to work directly with The Innovation Unit and the Paul Hamlyn Foundation; or to join a 'community of interest' and be regularly up-dated on developing work; or to become part of a 'community of practice' by implementing pedagogic changes and sharing the emerging lessons with the rest of the community.

A booklet giving more detail about the background thinking behind this work will be available on the Innovation Unit website www.innovation-unit.co.uk. Advance copies available on request.

For more information contact the Innovation Unit press office at: press@innovation-unit.co.uk (the mailbox is continually monitored).

Notes for Editors

- 1) Estelle Morris is available for further comment. To arrange, please e-mail the press box above.
- 2) The Paul Hamlyn Foundation is one of the UK's largest independent grant-giving organisations. The Foundation's *Education and Learning Programme* supports the development and dissemination of new ideas that can make a significant contribution to young people's learning and achievement. Increasingly the Foundation is seeking to achieve system-wide changes and will often support work which others may find challenging or which requires long-term solutions. It often works in partnership with government or other bodies to achieve maximum impact from its support. More details at www.phf.org.uk

- 3) The *Musical Futures* project started with 20 schools in 2005 and has grown to an estimated 700 today. More details at www.musicalfutures.org.uk
- 4) The Innovation Unit is a not-for-profit agency committed to working in partnership with localities to build innovative capacity and to drawing out and transferring local learning for use by others. The Unit works with the most aspirational school leaders determined to solve intractable problems; with those who want to achieve disciplined radical innovation and with those willing to share their learning more widely. More details at www.innovation-unit.co.uk