

Professor Ken Muir – Keynote

Professor Ken Muir is currently Honorary Professor of the University of the West of Scotland. He was previously the Chief Executive and registrar of the GTCS, and is a former Chief Inspector of Education. He started his career as a geography teacher.

Following the OECD's independent review into Scotland's school curriculum, the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills announced the intention to replace the SQA and consider a new specialist agency for both curriculum and assessment. The reform of Education Scotland was also announced, with the removal of the function inspection from the agency.

With all his expertise, Ken was invited to seek the views of all interested parties on these reforms and make suggestions on how these could be implemented. His completed report and recommendations continue to be widely debated.

Ken will explain the thinking behind his report "Putting Learners at the Centre: Towards a Future Vision for Scottish Education" and – as was stated in his covering letter of the report to the Cabinet Secretary – will no doubt "provoke questions by all who have a stake in Scottish Education".

David Cameron - Keynote & Conference Chair

David Cameron has established himself as a leading voice in education. He has led reviews and presented at conferences in Scotland, across the UK and internationally, working with teachers, parents and governors. David has extensive experience as a teacher, a senior manager in schools and in local authorities, most recently as Director of Children's Services for Stirling Council. David has supported STEP for many years and his passion for education combined with his extensive knowledge and sense of humour have provided STEP with a hugely popular conference chair. He can be contacted at therealdavidcameron@gmail.com.

"When will we ever learn? - the endless quest for the Holy Grail"

"Scottish Education has been reviewed more than Prince Harry's tome. It seems to be past time to question "why?" and "to what end?"

That is what this presentation will do. It will ask whether or not we are ignoring some very obvious solutions to the perceived problems that we face in education and set out some of the steps that we might take if we were serious about addressing inequality and making a difference to attainment and achievement in Scotland.

The conference will be opened by Shirley-Anne Somerville, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills of Scotland at 9.15am.