# Westminster Higher Education Forum policy conference: Widening participation and access to higher education

Timing: Morning, Wednesday 4th September, 2024

\*\*\*Taking Place Online\*\*\*

Draft agenda subject to change

WESTMINSTER EDUCATION FORUM

8.30	Registration
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## 9.00 Chair's opening remarks

Senior Parliamentarian

# 9.05 Access and participation in Higher Education - assessing the current landscape and next steps

**Ben Jordan**, Director, Strategy, UCAS Questions and comments from the floor

## 9.30 Examining the process of creating access and participation provider plans (APPs) and maximising their utility

Senior representative, university

## 9.40 Addressing current barriers to widening higher education participation and access

achieving positive outcomes for students | tackling drop-out rates | diversifying student intake | supporting specific groups | addressing the financial burden of university for some students | supporting graduates into high-skilled jobs

Senior representative, university Senior representative, adult education Senior commentator Senior representative, student union

#### 10.00 Questions and comments from the floor

#### 10.25 Chair's closing remarks

Senior Parliamentarian

10.35 Break

# 10.45 Chair's opening remarks

Senior Parliamentarian

# 10.50 Next steps for HEI collaboration with FE and schools

information, guidance and clarity for students | technical and vocational routes | developing whole-system approaches with schools | improving relationships between HEIs, schools and the FE sector

Neil Raven, Independent Consultant, Neil Raven Consultancy

Senior representative, university Senior representative, school

Senior representative, tertiary education

Student representative

Questions and comments from the floor

#### 11.40 Expanding and diversifying routes into higher education

Senior representative, alternative provision

## 11.50 Alternative options for HEI provision and HEIs and local skills systems

meeting local needs | priorities for upskilling | opportunities for mature learners | provision of part-time, distanced and flexible

courses | non-traditional degree options | LLE rollout and impact

Senior representative, university course design Senior representative, student recruitment Senior representative, local authority Student representative

Questions and comments from the floor

## 12.35 Priorities for improving access to Higher Education moving forward

**Dr Omar Khan**, CEO, Transforming Access and Outcomes in Higher Education

Questions and comments from the floor

## 12.55 Chair's and Westminster Higher Education Forum closing remarks

Senior Parliamentarian

Sean Cudmore, Westminster Higher Education Forum