

### BBC digital curriculum proposals

I am writing as a Headteacher, member of the Board of BECTa, and a researcher into the learning benefits for students of new resources.

The BBC proposals offer the UK an unparalleled opportunity to benefit all the children of this country. There is no question that the BBC has the ability to create resources that will have a measurable and positive effect on learning outcomes.

We carried out research here on a large sample of school children using BBC Bitesize materials. This was evaluated by a team from the University of Durham, and clearly showed gains at GCSE of up to one whole grade for every student.

Similar research here and elsewhere suggests that the new resources will make a similar impact. Current online resources do not, in general, have this potential.

I am familiar with the arguments of some in the commercial sector who wish to prevent schools and children having access to free resources. In my view, and in the view of many educators and private sector providers, this is misguided. The basic provision of the BBC will be a quality market creating product, and one which will allow the commercial sector to build on with high quality, high specification additional services.

This model brings with it the benefits of excellent provision for our children, and excellent marketing opportunities for the combined UK public / private sector. With a national curriculum, world leading software expertise, and a range of basic provision (BBC) plus additional higher level services from the commercial sector, the ideal of joint quality production for learning becomes possible. This in turn offers long-term financial benefits for the country.

I cannot urge you more strongly to support in full the BBC proposals, and would be happy to expand on this comments at any time.

Yours sincerely

Dr Paul Kelley