Welcome to the first edition of 'A question of education' @ York.

The e-newsletter aims to give you a taste of the wide range of teaching and research questions being investigated on a daily basis by the Department of Education at York.

We hope you enjoy it. Visit our website to find out more the Department's work, public events and how you can get involved.

Dr Beatrice Szczepk Reed
Head of the Department of Education, University of York

Is educational achievement heritable?

New research has found that the high heritability of exam grades reflects many genetically influenced traits such as personality, behaviour problems and self-efficacy, and not just intelligence.

Is postgraduate study only for a chosen few?

How do we ensure everyone has equal opportunity to access postgraduate education? Is it only for those from advantaged backgrounds?

Why don’t more young people study additional languages?

Although teenagers recognise the need to learn languages, few are doing so – and even fewer are studying non-traditional languages such as Mandarin, Arabic, Russian and Turkish, which are only available in a handful of schools.
What is the best way to boost interest in school science?

We design context-based courses to help young people to apply their science learning outside the classroom and to be stimulated to study science further.

Alumni spotlight...

An international alumnus...

When York looks to demonstrate its internationalism, it might use figures or graphs, but perhaps it would do better to turn to Department of Education alumnus Andy Curtis who is interviewed for our alumni magazine. Recently appointed President-Elect of the TESOL International Association, he will be at the head of an organization with nearly 14,000 full members and 47,000 affiliate members. Much of his experience came from teaching international students while in post-graduate study at York. Read more...

In other news

York's Department of Education is one of only 17 departments in the country to have achieved Bronze level in Equality Challenge Unit’s (ECU) trial gender equality charter mark. We also recently received some fantastic scores in the National Student Survey. Find out more about the Department of Education and our undergraduate, postgraduate and teacher training programmes.

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We are interested in keeping in touch with alumni and friends with an interest in our Education work. To talk further please contact our External Relations Manager: hannah.hughes@york.ac.uk