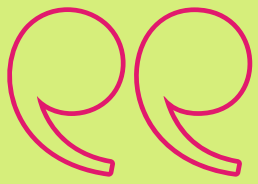


Finally!

farewell

Ebacc...



The Ebacc created a hierarchy of subjects in our schools, with the arts being marked as low status. The consequence has been a reduction in curriculum time, fewer pupils opting for arts at Key Stage 4, teachers losing their jobs, and a whole generation denied real choice.

Finally, politicians have woken up to the damage done by this divisive measure, and have taken action. It has taken 15 years of vocal, well evidenced and creative campaigning to get here. Well done everyone who has raised their voice and united to end the Ebacc.



Michele Gregson
NSEAD General Secretary & CEO

Some key moments on this very long road:

July 2011: NSEAD Patron and Ebacc activist Bob and Roberta Smith created his artwork *A letter to Michael Gove*, decrying the minister's education policies, which the artist sees as an attack, not just on art and design education, but on creativity itself.

September 2012: Subject associations, including NSEAD, came together in The 'Bacc for the Future' campaign launched by the Incorporated Society of Musicians (ISM), where we reported on the impact on our subject.

Some key moments on this very long road:

December 2012: NSEAD and Sharon Hodgson MP established the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for art, craft and design in education, reporting on the impact of Government policy on our subject.

September 2013: Our member magazine *AD* featured NSEAD Patron and Ebacc activist Bob and Roberta Smith, and a scathing take down of the Government's arts strategy - 'Diminish the role of art and design in the economy by making art and design a second-class subject in schools'.

Some key moments on this very long road:

November 2013: The Ebacc was the focus of Bob and Roberta Smith's The Art Party Conference, held in Scarborough. This was a riotous assembly of artists, performers and educators, making the point: art matters.

NSEAD's Lesley Butterworth gave a rousing speech, highlighting the dangers of creating a hierarchy of subjects in our schools.

Some key moments on this very long road:

Spring 2016: The NSEAD member survey (shared with the then Minister for School Standards, Nick Gibb) revealed the reduction in GCSE entries, teaching hours, and specialist teachers.

February 2023: The arts subject associations came together again, with NSEAD and One DanceUK working alongside ISM and the Edge Foundation, to renew our calls for reform. The APPG for Music Education heard evidence of the perilous state of arts education in English schools.

Some key moments on this very long road:

June 2023: The All-Party Parliamentary Group for Art, Craft and Design in Education published the *Art Now* inquiry report, which highlighted the decline in the time for art and design education and the impact on teacher morale.

Summer of 2024: the Creative Arts Manifesto, led by the Universities Alliance. NSEAD was a key signatory to a cross sector Compact agreement, pledging our commitment to eradicate the EBacc and to champion arts education.

Some key moments on this very long road:

11 February 2025: The Arts and Minds campaign was launched. The campaign, led by the NEU and a coalition of over 20 organisations (including NSEAD), plus artists and performers, working together to secure a broad and balanced arts curriculum in schools. The abolition of the Ebacc was a key campaign aim.

October 2025: Save Arts Education. The Times publish a letter from the Save Our Subjects campaign and 1,300 signatories, calling for reform to accountability measures.

**Some key moments on
this very long road:**

4 November 2025

The Curriculum and
Assessment Review panel
recommend that the
Ebacc be abolished
