

Letter to the editors

Roy Stafford (extract)

The first sentence below refers to Colin Waugh's PSE 103 article 'FE: its past present and possible future'. The remainder refers to other articles on the FE White Paper in that issue.

I generally agree with your position but you assume that A-levels will still be there and I've never changed my view that A-levels represent the biggest barrier to any form of curriculum development.

I think reading through most of the articles, we do have to rethink education for all in terms of changing economic and social structures. I would support the return of broad adult education provision, especially as the population ages.

I'm more and more convinced that climate change and ecological changes in agriculture, fishing and of course general food policy are crucial. We need to develop new industries with technologies designed to meet these challenges. Global corporations are already seeking to colonise these new industries. I don't believe we should just roll over in accepting this. Vocational education needs to take place with publicly owned and regulated new organisations. We could start with the railways and the bus industry and move on to consider scientific start-ups to develop agricultural and fishing technologies as well as technologies to help implement carbon-free energy use.

I also recognise that we need a proper social care system and the proper training and remuneration for the workers it will require.
