

Commission on Parliamentary Reform

Political Literacy Course event

8 February 2017

Background

This is a 3 part twilight course for teachers on political literacy, run by Scotdec in partnership with the Scottish Parliament Education team. Twenty six teachers from various backgrounds took part.

Members of the commission in attendance: John McCormick and John Finnie MSP.

Introduction

John McCormick gave an introduction explaining the set up and remit of the committee, as well as outlining progress so far.

The teachers were asked to consider promoting the work of the Commission with colleagues and getting pupils involved in completing the online survey, as well as encouraging them to use the discussion toolkit.

We asked: what is your experience of engaging with Parliament and how could it be improved?

You said:

Education programmes

Those who had taken part in education visits and outreach programmes had positive experiences.

It is difficult for secondary schools to get pupils out of school for visits so tend to focus on one particular class each year.

First Ministers' Question Time is the most popular with secondary schools but difficult to get a slot as there are so few.

Outreach education is valuable to many schools unable to get pupils to Parliament and this should be increased.

Meeting MSPs - Meeting with MSPs is seen as of particular benefit to both primary and secondary pupils, whether in school or at the Parliament.

Youth groups - It would be good to extend the education programmes so they were more flexible and youth groups more able to visit (Evening/weekend/school holidays)

The Parliament as an employer - Many young people would be interested in considering working here but don't know what's available.

Events – how can our pupils get involved in the events held in Parliament?

After the meeting ended the group were given information about employment opportunities and events by the Parliament's Education Manager.