

# Research Bulletin

Issue 8, November 2015

**W**elcome to the November edition of Elevation Networks Research Bulletin.

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## Race to the Top 2: Diversity in Education

Elevation Networks launched our second research report: "Race to the Top 2: Diversity in Education" at the Houses of Parliament on 19<sup>th</sup> November.

Statistics indicate that just 6% of state primary school teachers and 9.9% of qualified and unqualified teachers in maintained secondary schools were from black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds. In universities and colleges just 7% professors and 8% of senior lecturers were from BAME backgrounds.

The report identified significant shortfalls in comparison to the ethnic minority student population and that of the UK population as a whole. In 2011, 13 per cent of the UK population identified themselves as belonging to ethnic minority backgrounds. There are an estimated 1.09 million (30.4%) BAME primary school pupils, 0.84 million (26.6%) BAME secondary school students, whilst in 2013/14 there 0.35 million (24%) in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).

The report has been featured by the Guardian and The Voice.

- ➔ Full report: <http://ow.ly/V4orH>
- ➔ Guardian Article: <http://ow.ly/V4oJ5>
- ➔ The Voice Article: <http://ow.ly/Vjvay>

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## UNEMPLOYMENT

Unemployment has reached a 7-year low, falling to 1.75 million (5.3%) in September, down from 1.85 million (5.6%) in the previous

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quarter. There are now 31.21 million people in work, an increase of 177,000 since June 2015.

- ONS Release: <http://ow.ly/UyEsZ>

## YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Youth unemployment has fallen in line with the overall unemployment rate. In July to September 653,000 young people aged 16-24 were unemployed, down 85,000 from the previous quarter and down 83,000 from the previous year.

The unemployment rate (the proportion of the economically active population who are unemployed) for 16-24 year olds was 14.2%, down from 16.2% a year ago. However, youth unemployment is still almost 3-times higher than that of the population as a whole.

However, 133,000 (20%) of young people are classed as long-term unemployed, having been out of work for 12 months or more. This is down 28,000 on the previous quarter and down 74,000 on the previous year.

- ➔ <http://ow.ly/UKM92>

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## GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Autumn Spending Review

The government announced its autumn spending review on 25<sup>th</sup> November. Key points:

- National Citizen Service to be expanded with funding increasing to £0.2 billion in 2016, £0.3 billion in 2018 and £0.4 billion in 2019.
- Education budgets remain protected with plans for a further 500 free schools and 600,000 additional school places.
- Maintenance loans for part-time students in higher education will be made available from 2018.
- £3 billion towards the creation of 3 million additional apprenticeships.
- 26 new enterprise zones to be created.

- ➔ Key announcements: <http://ow.ly/V4iDJ>
- ➔ BBC News: <http://ow.ly/V4iPn>

## EQUALITY/DIVERSITY

### Race at Work Survey

A major survey of over 24,000 UK employees has revealed the stark inequalities and incidences of racism and harassment faced by many ethnic minority employees.

The survey of 24,457 BAME and white employees revealed that:

- In the past year alone 30% of employees have experienced or witnessed racial harassment or bullying from their managers, colleagues, customers or suppliers.
- Many BAME employees do not have access to career models to both support and inspire them to progress.
- BAME employees have far greater ambition to progress compared to their white counterparts, with 84% of BAME employees and 63% of white employees saying it is important to progress.
- The report found that many UK employees feel uncomfortable with talking about race issues at work.

→ Executive Summary: <http://ow.ly/UyHRX>

→ Full Report: <http://ow.ly/Uylc6>

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### Deloitte to trial computer game as part of apprenticeship selection process

Deloitte has introduced computer gaming technology to its recruitment process to help identify candidates' innovation, creativity and problem solving skills. Applicants to Deloitte's Bright Start Business Apprenticeship programme will be assessed as they play Firefly Freedom, a recruitment focussed gaming app. If successful, the programme will also be introduced as part of the firm's graduate development and school leaver's recruitment and selection process.

In September Deloitte also announced that it would introduce school and university-blind

interviews and use contextualised academic data. The launch of the new gaming app is part of a range of measures which Deloitte hopes will help it to access a more diverse talent pool.

→ Deloitte Press Release: <http://ow.ly/V6C8l>

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## EDUCATION

### 'North-South Divide' in GCSE Results

New results published by education data firm School Dash have identified a significant gap between GCSE results in the south and east of England compared to those in the Midlands and North of the country.

The statistics show that pupils in the south of England attained 4.7 more percentage points compared to those in the north. The results indicated that regional deprivation was a factor in academic attainment. Despite this, London was the highest performing area in the country.

→ Full Article: <http://ow.ly/UyLKD>

→ <https://www.schooldash.com>

### Ethnic Minorities 'More likely to go to university'

Research by the Institute for Fiscal Studies has indicated that students from ethnic minority groups are now more likely to go to university compared to their white counterparts.

Around 32.6 per cent of white ethnic youngsters enter higher education, compared to 56.6 of Black Africans. Chinese and Indian ethnic minorities were the most likely to go to university, accounting for 67.4% and 75.7% of young ethnic minority groups respectively.

The report found that accounting for ethnic and socio-economic background just 12.8% of the poorest white groups were likely to go to university.

→ IFS Article: <http://ow.ly/UyQm9>