

# Nick Gibb on the [non] impact of the EBacc on the arts in school

[Nick Gibb's speech at the Guildhall this week](#) contained an interesting insight into his thinking about the EBacc and the lack of impact that this has made on the provision of arts education in our schools. Without any personal comment from me, at this point, have a read of the following excerpts:

*The concern that the EBacc will drive pupils away from creative subjects at GCSE has been made vocally in the media, but proven to be unfounded. The EBacc covers a core set of 5 subject blocks – English, maths, science, humanities and languages – but this allows most pupils to choose a number of additional GCSE options. ...*

*I do understand why some in the arts communities are concerned about accountability measures, such as the EBacc, but in my view they needn't be. There is no reason why an academic core curriculum should in any way imperil a cultural education, or vice versa.*

*In fact, an academic curriculum and a cultural education can only complement each other, whether it is reading a wide range of literature; broadening your understanding of Shakespeare's plays; giving you the historical knowledge to contextualise Picasso's paintings; or allowing you to read Racine in the original language.*

*Both aspects of a child's education can and should co-exist within every school in England. This point was explicitly made by Nicky Morgan, the Secretary of State for Education in a speech to the Creative Industries Federation in July. We want to challenge every school to make this their aim.*

It is my strong personal and professional contention that the exact opposite is the case. This is why both I, and my company UCan Play, support the [ISM's Protect Music Education campaign](#). Perhaps more importantly, Gibb should stop and think why [these 137 organisations](#) working within the education sector also think that his policies are harming the arts, irrevocably, in our schools.

I am genuinely interested to know what is going on in your school? Are the arts flourishing as Nick Gibb suggests? Has the EBacc impacted on your work in any way at all? Please do add your comments below and let's hear your stories of arts education under Gibb's and Morgan's reign.