
Editorials from the First Two Issues of *FORUM*

We reprint below the editorial from the very first number of *FORUM*, published in September 1958. To gauge some idea of the response to this first number, we follow this up with the editorial from Number 2, published in the spring of 1959.

Editorial from Volume 1 Number 1 1958

A New Journal

With this number, a new educational journal is brought to birth. *FORUM* must be seen as an expression of the educational ferment of the present time. From the generous response to the summer publicity, it is clear that *FORUM* can act as a focus for discussion of new trends in education, and that many teachers, administrators and others feel the need for such a journal.

What are these new trends? The contents of this first number indicate a few of the most important: the new types of school developing in different parts of the country; the steps taken by modern secondary schools to transcend their earlier limitations; re-appraisal of such features of internal school organisation as streaming; new approaches to the content of education. It is with issues of this kind that this journal will be specifically concerned. Our aim is both to provide a basis of facts and ideas which may be helpful to those working in these fields, and to act as a forum for a lively discussion and exchange of experience among those most closely concerned.

We appeal to our readers from the outset not to hold back, but to send in their contributions so that *FORUM* can really fulfil its function. In future we hope to be able to devote a good deal of space to such discussion, and rather less to major articles. Since *FORUM* will appear only three times a year we do not propose to carry a correspondence column. Contributions to discussion, on the issues raised in this first number (or on other questions) should be written as articles or statements, and limited to 800 words. We should especially welcome

accounts of the experiences of practising teachers. Major articles, which should not exceed 2,500 words, are also invited.

If *FORUM* is really to reflect current trends and meet the needs of its subscribers, it must rely more than most journals on the suggestions and criticisms of its readers. We hope that these will be forthcoming. Further, if it is to be kept in being, the journal needs active support and assistance. We calculate that we need a minimum circulation of 2,000 before we are economically secure – 3,000 would enable us to expand the journal and build up some reserve against the second year's publication.

The response to our initial circularisation in the summer showed a great amount of goodwill, and many people have helped most actively to get the journal known. Even before publication, we had already close on 1,000 subscribers; of these some 33% are from modern schools, 12% from grammar schools, 11% from comprehensive and bilateral schools and 8% from junior schools; some 11% of our subscribers are administrators. The rest fall into miscellaneous categories. But it has not been possible systematically to circulate all assistant teachers, parents and others who might wish to support *FORUM*. There is, therefore, a vast field of potential subscribers still untouched.

We therefore must ask our readers to help us in making the journal widely known and in converting the goodwill that undoubtedly exists into many tangible eight and sixpenny subscriptions. Elsewhere in this number is a subscription form which could be used for this purpose. We have, in addition, leaflets available for distribution which will be supplied free on request. Further, we will supply copies of this first number on sale or return to anyone who is prepared either to sell them as single copies (at three shillings), or, preferably, to use them to obtain annual subscriptions commencing with the first or second number (at eight and sixpence). Precise details of this scheme will be sent to anyone who is prepared to assist.

An effort of this kind, on a wide scale, is necessary to establish a journal which, we hope, will be felt by its readers to belong to them. We will report progress in the second number.

Editorial from Volume 1 Number 2 1959

First Reaction

There has been a generous response to the first number of *FORUM*. The *Manchester Guardian* welcomed its concentration on 'new experiences in practice'; the *Local Government Chronicle* – itself a journal of long standing – congratulated the enterprise that had led to its publication, and hoped that *FORUM* would

have the success 'which from our study of the first number it clearly deserves.' *Education for Teaching* commented that, 'the articles are refreshingly hard-hitting and therefore likely to provoke thought and keen discussion amongst students.' The educational press generally included notices of the first number, *The Times Educational Supplement* stating that 'much useful criticism can come from this wing of educational debate, and if *FORUM* gains support enough to come out every month so much the better.' *Nature*, in a generous assessment of the first number, raised the question as to whether this 'courageous experiment' can survive at its present price, while *the Local Government Chronicle* also pointed out that 'under present conditions the launching of a new journal is a hazardous undertaking.'

We fully intend that *FORUM* shall survive, and readers may be interested in the present position. Of the print of 2,500 of the first number, some 380 were distributed as specimen copies. The number has now almost sold out, giving a paid circulation of over 2,000. This is quite a good start. Subscriptions now total 1,350. But it is still necessary to raise the number of subscribers since only this can give stability to the journal. A leaflet advertising this issue, and including a subscription form, is included with each copy of the journal, and we would like to ask our readers to help us by using this leaflet to gain another subscriber. Further copies are available on request.

Subscribers have a right to know that the Editorial Board of *FORUM* is a working board and no sinecure. It meets three times a year and at each meeting assesses the previous number and plans two (and sometimes more) numbers ahead. While leaving a certain flexibility in the hands of the editors, it is the Board as a whole which makes the main decisions as to which subjects shall be treated. By this means we hope to ensure that the journal is really responsive to the requirements of teachers, and of its readership generally.

As a result of representations from junior school teachers following the first number, the Board has decided to co-opt two more junior school teachers; we always intend to give an adequate amount of space to the consideration of junior school problems.

With this number a few feature is included, the 'Discussion' section. We expect this to be a permanent and important part of *FORUM*, and hope that our readers will send in their contributions on the matters raised in the main articles (or in the discussion itself). These should be limited to 800 words and may, of course, be less.

In two or three areas there is talk of forming *FORUM* groups for the discussion of articles and issues raised in the journal. We should be glad to help anyone who wishes to take the initiative in forming such groups and will send, on request, the names and addresses of *FORUM* subscribers living in the area.

FORUM is now definitely launched on its career. We hope that it meets with your requirements, and should be glad of any comments and suggestions. Above all, we should appreciate any help you can give in widening its leadership.

