Research in the new Academies: enterprise, philanthropy and faith

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Academies sponsored by the Emmanuel Schools Foundation (ESF) fit very well into the Typology of Entrepreneurialism proposed by Woods et al. (2007: 242)
Cultural Entrepreneurialism (CE)

CE: advancing ideas and values that give purpose to individual and social action – innovation with a mission to bring meaning. (Woods & Woods, 2009: 126)
Data Collection

Ethnographic Study of Emmanuel CTC (Gateshead) – January to June 2007

Study visits to King’s Academy (Middlesbrough) & Trinity Academy (Thorne) – two weeks at each site June 2007

Observation: assemblies, canteen, staff room, Year 7 tutor times & subject lessons, RE lessons (all key stages).
ESF

Sponsor and senior management share a reformed, or conservative, Protestant Christian worldview.

The worldview shapes assumptions about values, education and good living but is not fully integrated into the curriculum.

The worldview is enacted as a moral/ethical code to improve behaviour & promote civic values & achievement.
Instilling a culture of enterprise

Model underpinned by cultural entrepreneurialism instils CE by promoting generic skills and values, nurturing a sense of individual agency (Woods & Woods, 2009: 128)
Corporate Features in ESF Academies

Self conscious attempt to export policies and structures and even physical surroundings ‘perfected’ at Emmanuel CTC to promote performance, efficiency and managerialism in the Academies.
Core Values

Mission Statement

+ to provide all students and staff with the opportunity to work hard to achieve their personal best
+ to encourage personal, moral and spiritual development within a Christian framework
+ to create a disciplined, sensitive environment where everyone is equally valued
Philanthropy

“The Academies also demonstrate ‘corporate responsibility’ and the caring face of capitalism and of ‘self-made men’ who want to ‘give something back’. These hero entrepreneurs embody some of the key values of New Labour: the possibilities of meritocracy, of achieving individual success from modest beginnings and wealth creation from innovation and knowledge.” (Ball, 2009: 102)
Public Entrepreneurialism (PE)

PE: Application of entrepreneurial flexibility and creativity to sustain and advance public ethos, values and aims. (Woods 7 Woods, 2009: 126)
Can a policy so driven by a performative instrumental agenda fully embody a spiritual dimension?