



INCREASE FUNDING FOR SIXTH FORM EDUCATION

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Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
London, SW1A 2HQ

29th August 2019

Dear Sajid,

We are writing to you as MPs with school sixth forms, sixth form colleges and FE colleges in our constituencies to ask that you prioritise investment in 16 to 18 education in the forthcoming spending round.

The Institute for Fiscal Studies reports that education funding for 16 to 18 year olds “has seen the biggest squeeze of all stages of education for young people in recent years”. This is having a serious impact on students. A recent survey of schools and colleges for the Raise the Rate campaign found that:

- 78% have reduced student support services or extra-curricular activities as a result of funding pressures – with significant cuts to mental health support, employability skills and careers advice
- 51% of schools and colleges have dropped courses in modern foreign languages, with A levels in German, French and Spanish the main casualties
- 38% have dropped STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) courses

The underinvestment in sixth form education is bad for students, bad for social mobility and bad for the economy. A central aim of the Industrial Strategy is to help young people to develop the skills they need to do the high-paid, high-skilled jobs of the future. The post-Brexit economy will be driven by leaders, scientists, technicians, engineers and others that will all pass through the pivotal phase of 16 to 18 education, so we must ensure that it is properly funded.

We urge you to use the spending review to implement the first recommendation in *A ten-year plan for school and college funding* - the report published by the Education Committee in July - which is to “urgently address underfunding in further education by increasing the base rate from £4,000 to at least £4,760, rising in line with inflation.”

This is the only way to ensure that schools and colleges can increase student services to minimum required levels, protect minority subjects and reverse the decline in extra-curricular activities and work experience. The additional funding proposed for T levels is welcome, but will have no impact on the vast majority of young people who study A levels or applied general qualifications.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Alex Cunningham	Laura Smith
Alex Norris	Layla Moran
Alex Sobel	Lilian Greenwood
Andy Slaughter	Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle
Anne Marie Morris	Lisa Nandy
Ben Bradley	Lloyd Russell-Moyle
Bob Blackman	Louise Haigh
Caroline Lucas	Lucy Powell
Rt Hon Caroline Nokes	Rt Hon Dame Margaret Hodge
Conor McGinn	Marie Rimmer
Damien Moore	Mark Hendrick
Daniel Kawczynski	Marsha De Cordova
Daniel Zeichner	Melanie Onn
Darren Jones	Mike Amesbury
Sir David Amess	Neil O'Brien
Sir David Crausby	Neil Parish
Dr David Drew	Nic Dakin
Rt Hon David Lammy	Rt Hon Norman Lamb
Debbie Abrahams	Paul Farrelly
Diana Johnson	Dr Paul Williams
Eleanor Smith	Peter Kyle
Emma Reynolds	Phillip Davies
Faisal Rashid	Preet Kaur Gill
Gareth Thomas	Rachael Maskell
Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown	Robert Goodwill
Sir George Howarth	Rt Hon Robert Halfon
Gill Furniss	Roberta Blackman-Woods
Gloria De Piero	Rosie Cooper
Sir Graham Brady	Rosie Duffield
Heidi Allen	Royston Smith
Helen Goodman	Ruth Cadbury
Helen Hayes	Sarah Champion
Huw Merriman	Sarah Newton
Ian Liddell-Grainger	Stephen Lloyd
Ian Mearns	Stephen Morgan
James Frith	Steve Brine
James Gray	Suella Braverman
Jeff Smith	Thelma Walker
Jenny Chapman	Tim Loughton
Jeremy Lefroy	Tracy Brabin
Jim McMahon	Vernon Coaker
Jonathan Lord	Vicky Foxcroft
Julia Lopez	Wera Hobhouse
Kate Green	Wes Streeting
Rt Hon Keith Vaz	William Wragg
Kelvin Hopkins	Yvonne Fovargue
Kerry McCarthy	

cc.

Rishi Sunak MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury

Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP, Secretary of State for Education