



5 June 2015

Rt Hon Nicky Morgan
Secretary of State for Education
Department for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London
SW1AP 3BT

Dear Secretary of State,

Funding for the education of 16-19 year olds

This joint letter urges you to raise the issue of the current low funding of 16-19 education with the Chancellor of the Exchequer as part of your discussions with him before his July budget decisions. This is not a new issue and we have raised it before with you and your predecessor, Michael Gove, but the situation is now becoming acutely difficult.

We are urging you to address the growing and significant disparity in the funding for the education of 16-19 year olds in schools and colleges. Members of our associations tell us that the substantial dip in funding, between pre-16 education and higher education is already having significant and adverse consequences for their continued ability to provide choice and high quality education to 16 to 19 year olds. The situation will become significantly worse over the next few months following the impact of the increases in employers' contributions to both Teachers' Pensions and National Insurance, as well as general inflation and the need to keep pay competitive in light of the economic recovery.

The paper describing the 16-19 funding dip and its consequences we submitted previously is attached for your information.

We are extremely concerned that the low level of 16-19 funding is significantly impacting on the best endeavours of schools and colleges to cultivate the potential talents of young people. This situation has developed as an unwelcome anomaly, which we recognise began well before your time in post, but nevertheless should be urgently addressed.

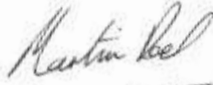
We believe that some action is needed for the 2016-17 budget cycle and the next comprehensive spending review should re-evaluate the resources needed for a good education for all 16-19 year olds in state education. It is important that education for this age group is fully funded, particularly as the age at which young people are required to continue in education or training has now increased to 18.

We wholeheartedly subscribe to your aims for 16-19 education of raising standards, improving quality, and ensuring that the education of our students is unrivalled on the world stage. As stated in our previous correspondence we would welcome the opportunity to work with you and your officials in helping to determine the resources needed to achieve these aims and how these resources are then best deployed.

Yours sincerely,



Brian Lightman, General Secretary,
Association of School and College Leaders



Martin Doel, Chief Executive,
Association of Colleges



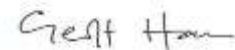
Tom Clark, Chairman,
Freedom and Autonomy for Schools-National Association



Kathy August, Chair,
Independent Academies Association



David Igoe, Chief Executive,
Sixth Form Colleges Association



Sir Geoff Hall, General Secretary,
Principals Professional Council



Barry Sindall, Chief Executive,
Grammar School Head's Association