

6 October 2017

Rt Hon Theresa May MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing to you as principals and chairs of governors from colleges across England to raise our serious concerns regarding the under-funding of 16-19 education and the need to remedy this in the Government's forthcoming budget.

You will be aware that colleges educate the majority of young people aged 16-19 in England, and our work is essential in improving the skills of the nation, boosting social mobility and improving productivity, particularly in light of the changes Brexit will bring. We know that additional funding is planned to support the new T levels, and some capital has been identified to underpin the new Institutes of Technology, and we are keen to support these developments. However, this additional money will not reach the majority of students studying in our colleges, and a more significant issue remains regarding the breadth and nature of the education and training colleges can now offer to our young people.

The national funding rate for 16 and 17 year old students has been fixed since 2013 at £4,000 per full-time student, and this reduces even further once the student turns 18 to £3,300. This means that students on A level, Applied General and other vocational programmes can only receive around 15 hours a week of education and training, which falls to around 12 hours once they turn 18. This is only half the tuition provided in other leading economies. Our students are now in danger of studying an impoverished curriculum, which has already reduced in breadth and choice, and cannot prepare our young people to take their place in employment and compete in a global economy. The fact that this rate has been fixed for some years means that colleges are bearing significant additional costs and are forced to restrict the pay of their teachers and other staff, so much so that this threatens our ability to provide high quality education and training. Ironically, due to the demographic fall in the numbers of 16-18 students the budget for this area of education has also been underspent, which seems a tragedy to us.

We are aware that we hold the key to the country's future and without skilled, well-educated young people the UK will fail to flourish. And we are keen to rise to this challenge. Our request, therefore, is simple. In the first stage, we ask that the under spend in the budget is used immediately to increase the rate per 16-18 student to £4,200 (including 18 year old students). This will help us to maintain the breadth of provision and high standards we would want for our young people and attract and retain excellent teachers and trainers. We would also ask your Government to commit to a full review of the funding of education over the 16-18 phase, recognising that in the longer term proper investment in education and training pays back down the generations.

Yours sincerely,

College

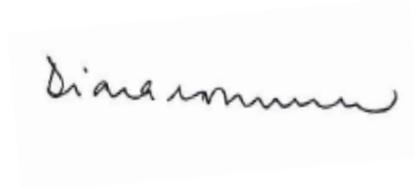
Principal/Chief Executive

Chair of Governors

Abingdon College

Di Batchelor

Barry Jenner



Activate Learning Group

Sally Dicketts

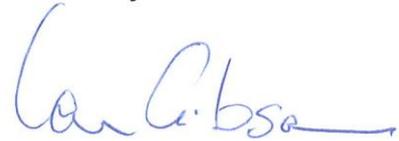
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Alton College

Sara Russell

Ian Gibson



Aquinas College

Danny Pearson

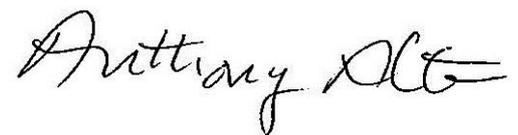
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Askham Bryan College

Catherine Dixon

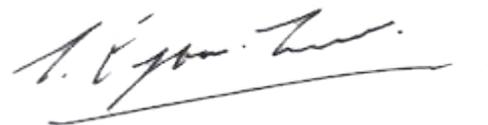
Anthony Alton



Barnfield College

Tim Eyton-Jones

Chair unavailable

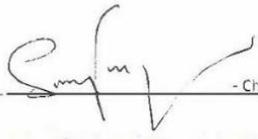


Barnsley College

Chris Webb

Simon Perryman

Cwwebb

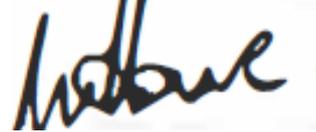
Signed  - Chair

Basingstoke College of Technology

Anthony Bravo



Mike Howe



Bath College

Laurel Penrose



Carole Stott



Berkshire College of Agriculture

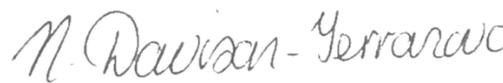
Gillian May



Chair unavailable

Bishop Auckland College

Natalie Davison-Terranova



Pamela Petty



Bishop Burton College

Jeanette Dawson



Chair unavailable

Blackpool and The Fylde College

Bev Robinson



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Bournemouth & Poole College

Diane Grannell

James Hampton
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Dione Grannell

Bracknell & Wokingham
College

Campbell S. Christie

David Cook

Bradford College

Andy Welsh

Richard Wrightman

Bridgwater & Taunton
College

Andy Berry

Derek Randell

Brockenhurst College

Di Roberts

Graham Beards

Burnley College

Hugh Bramwell

David Meakin

Burton and South
Derbyshire College

Dawn Ward

Everton Burke

Bury College

Charlie Deane

Peter Nicol

Buxton and Leek College

Len Tildsley



Olivia Dean



Cadbury Sixth Form College

Jeremy Rogers



Nick Henry



Calderdale College

John Rees

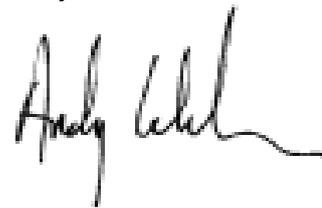


Peter Clark



Capital City College Group

Andy Wilson



Alastair Da Costa



Carlisle College

Steve Salkeld



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Central Bedfordshire College

Ali Hadawi



Professor James Crabbe



Chesterfield College

Julie Richards

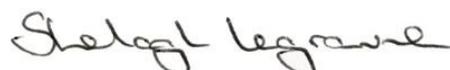


Frank Smith

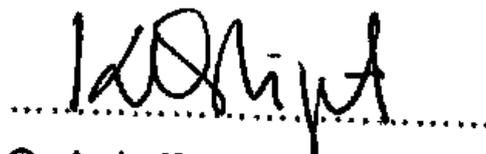


Chichester College

Shelagh Legrave



Kieran Stigant



City College Plymouth

Phil Davies

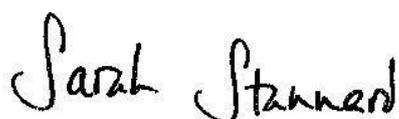
Nick Holman



City College Southampton

Sarah Stannard

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City of Bristol College

Lee Probert

Peter Rilett



Cleveland College of Art & Design

Dr Martin Raby

Dr Graham Robson



Colchester Institute

Alison Andreas

Christopher Bridge



Craven College

Robert Bellfield

Chair unavailable



Darlington College

Kate Roe

Pat Howarth

Kate Roe



Derwentside College

Karen Redhead

Tony Edwards

K Redhead



Dudley College

Lowell Williams

Peter Davies



East Coast College

Stuart Rimmer

Mike Burrows



East Durham College

Suzanne Duncan

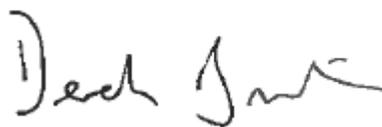
David Butler



East Riding College

Derek Branton

Simon Wright



Eastleigh College

Jan Edrich

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Esher College

Dan Dean

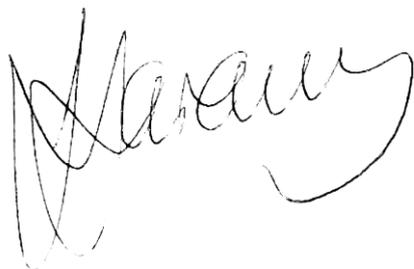
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Exeter College

John Laramy

David Allen



Fareham College

Nigel Duncan

Russell Kew



Greater Brighton
Metropolitan College

Nick Juba

Julie Nerney



Grimsby Institute of
Further and Higher
Education

Gill Alton

Chair unavailable



Halesowen College

David Williams

Ian Jewkes

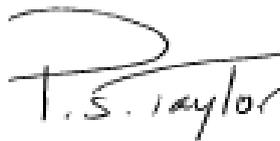


Harlow College

Karen Spencer



Paul Taylor



Hartlepool College

Darren Hankey



Aiden Mullen



Hartpury College

Russell Marchant



Edward Keene



Havering College of
Further and Higher
Education

Maria Thompson

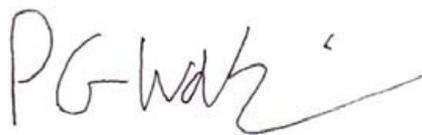


Stan Rose



Havering Sixth Form

Paul Wakeling



Keith Darvill



Chair of Corporation.

Herefordshire and Ludlow
College

Ian Peake



Igor Andronov



Hertford Regional College

Tony Medhurst



Mike Carver

Highbury College

Stella Mbubaegbu



Nicola Youern

Holy Cross College

Daveth Frost

Anne Fox

Hopwood Hall College

Deiric J. Ó Tuathail

Chair unavailable

Hull College Group

Michelle Swithenbank

Becky Outibridge

Isle of Wight College

Debbie Lavin

Nicholas England

John Ruskin College

Mohammed Ramzan

Alec Stowe

Kendal College

Graham Wilkinson



Cath Dutton



Kidderminster College

Andy Dobson

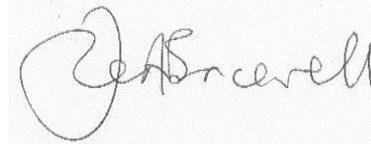
Matthew Terry



Kirklees College

Marie Gilluley

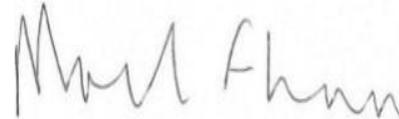
Jane Bracewell



Knowsley Community College

Anne Pryer

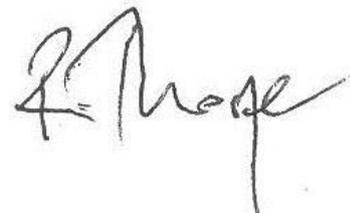
Mark Flinn



Lancaster & Morecambe College

Wes Johnson

Roy Thorpe



Leeds City College

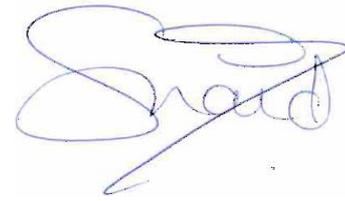
Colin Booth

Dr Shaid Mahmood



Leicester College

Verity Hancock



Jonathan Kerry



Lewisham Southwark
College

Carole Kitching

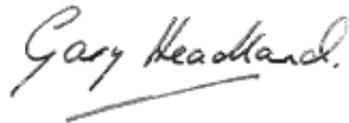


Chris Bilsland



Lincoln College Group

Gary Headland



James Pinchbeck



London South East
Colleges

Sam Parrett



Stephen Howlett



Long Road Sixth Form
College

Christine Sherwin

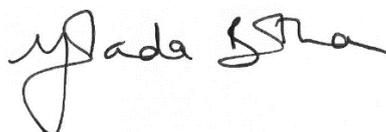


Ian Wilson



Lowestoft Sixth Form
College

Yolanda Botham



David Bye



Luton Sixth Form College

Chris Nicholls



Professor Mary Malcolm



Middlesborough College

Zoë Lewis



Robert A Davies



MidKent College

Simon Cook



Ann Ferudi

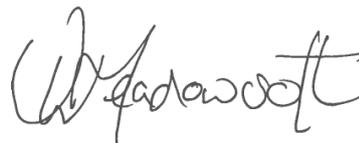


Milton Keynes College

Dr Julie Mills

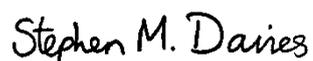


David Meadowcroft



Moulton College

Stephen Davies



Robin Thompson



NCG

Joe Docherty



Chair unavailable

Nelson and Colne College

Amanda Melton



Stephen Barnes



Newcastle College

Tony Lewin

Chair unavailable



Newcastle Sixth Form
College

Gerard Garvey

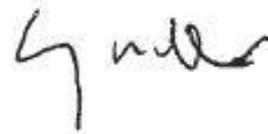
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New City College

Gerry McDonald

Lucy De Groot



New College Durham

John Widdowson

Gary Ellis



New College Stamford

Janet Meenaghan

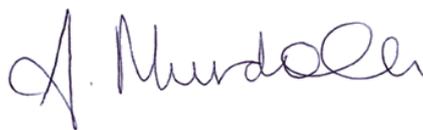
Alison Grant



Newbury College

Dr Anne Murdoch

Geoff Knappett



Newham College

Paul Stephen

Chair unavailable



North Kent College

David Gleed



Alex Lewsley



North Lindsey &
Doncaster College

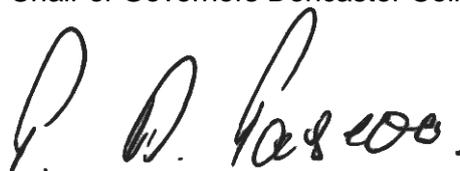
Anne Tyrrell



Andy Tuscher
Chair of Governors North Lindsey
College

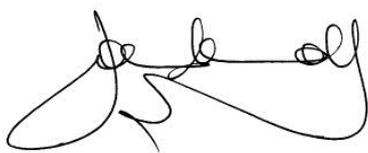


Paul Pascoe
Chair of Governors Doncaster College



North Nottinghamshire
College

John Connolly



Atholl Stott



North Warwickshire &
South Leicestershire
College

Marion Plant



Chair unavailable

Northumberland College

Marcus Clinton

Jacqui Henderson



Jacqui Handors

Oaklands College

Zoe Hancock

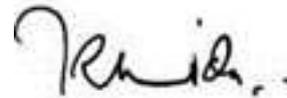
Phil Thompson



Oldham College

Alun Francis

Tim Mitchell



Oldham Sixth Form College

Jayne Clarke

John Porter – Oldham Sixth Form



Andrew Kilburn – Chair of MAT Board



Peterborough Regional College

Terry Jones

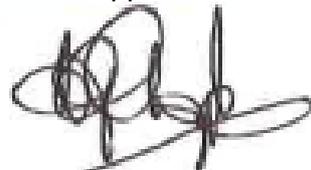
Andrew Stafford



Petroc College of Further & Higher Education

Diane Dimond

Andrew Chappel



Preston's College

Lis Smith

John Boydell

Priestley College

Matthew Grant

Reg Haslam

Reaseheath College

Meredydd David

Richard Ratcliffe

Richmond upon Thames College

Robin Ghurbhurun

Barbara Gilgallon

Riverside College

Mary Murphy

Valerie Allen (Vice-Chair)

Runshaw College

Simon Partington

David Sherliker

Selby College

Allan Stewart

Vernon Wells

Vernon Wells M.B.E.

Shipleigh College

Nav Chohan



Joanne Beaumont



Shrewsbury Colleges Group

James Staniforth



Gordon Channon



Solihull College and University Centre

John Callaghan



John Bolt



South and City College Birmingham

Mike Hopkins



Clive Henderson



South Cheshire College/West Cheshire College

Jasbir Dhese

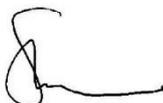


Dame Patricia Bacon



South Devon College

Stephen Criddle



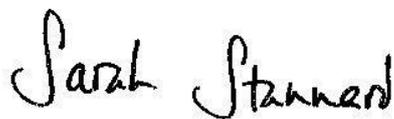
Dr Karen Stockham



Southampton City College

Sarah Stannard

Chair unavailable



Southport College

John Clarke

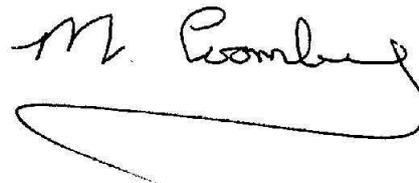
Canon J Fell



Sparsholt College
Hampshire

Tim Jackson

Michael Coombes



St Francis Xavier Sixth
Form College

Stella Flannery

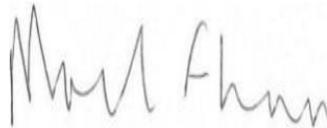
Colin Garvey



St Helens College

Anne Pryer

Mark Flinn



Stanmore College

Sarbdip Noonan

John Howard

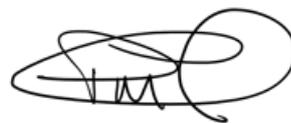


Stockton Riverside
College

Mark White



Phil Cook



Stoke-on-Trent College

Denise Brown



Jeremy Cartwright



Strode College

Katy Quinn

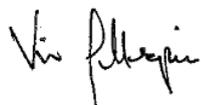


Kate Lovell

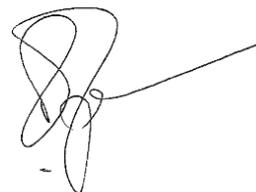


Suffolk New College

Viv Gillespie



Roger Fern



Sussex Coast College

Clive Cooke

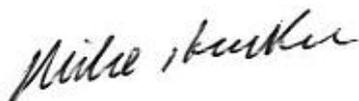


Tony Campbell



Sussex Downs College

Mike Hopkins



Henry Ball



The College of Haringey,
Enfield and North East
London

Andy Forbes

Keith Brown



The College of West Anglia

David Pomfret

Sharon Cambridge

S. Cambridge

The Cornwall College Group

Raoul Humphreys

Dr Ian Tunbridge

Thomas Rotherham College

Dr Richard Williams

Paul Jagger

Truro and Penwith College

David Walrond

Ellen Winsor

Tyne Coast College

Dr Lindsey Whiterod

Bill Midgley

Uxbridge College

Laraine Smith

Nick Davies

Walsall College

Jatinder Sharma

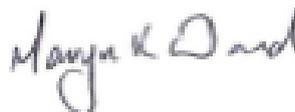
Allan Pinnegar



Warrington & Vale Royal College

Nichola Newton

Mervyn Ward



West Lancashire College

Denise Williamson

Chair unavailable



West London College

Garry Phillips

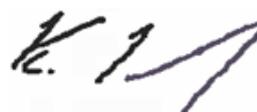
Tony Alderman



West Suffolk College

Dr Nikos Savvas

Ken Golding



West Thames College

Tracy Aust

Simon Wilcox



Wiltshire College

Amanda Burnside

Helen Birchenough

Anne Dine

Windsor Forest Colleges Group

Kate Webb

Tony Dixon

Worcester Sixth Form College

Michael Kitcatt

Gill Slater

Worthing College

Paul Riley

Paul Amoo

Yeovil College

John Evans

Jacqueline Dean

York College

Dr Alison Birkinshaw

Shirley Collier