



Protect Student Choice
Campaign

30 June 2023

By email

Dear All

Thank you for writing to me regarding the *Protect Student Choice campaign* and opportunities for young people to study at Level 3.

Labour has supported the introduction of T-levels and will continue to promote high quality vocational pathways for young people and adults which are vital to their opportunities and to supporting economic growth across our economy.

Labour wants to see an expansion of opportunities for young people, and I am extremely concerned that the government's mismanagement of this process could present new barriers to young people looking to progress to Level 3 qualifications, as their own equality impact assessment recognises. Ministers have continually shifted the goal posts, on timelines, the process for making decisions on Applied General Qualifications and which qualifications are in scope. I understand the uncertainty this is creating, both for you and for the students studying and looking to study AGQs, including the inability of colleges to plan their course offerings for the coming years.

Labour believes the way in which the transition from BTECs to T-levels is being handled by the government is putting the broader success of T-levels as a new qualification at risk, and constraining opportunities for our young people.

I and colleagues across the Labour Party have urged the government to focus more clearly on ensuring the success and spread of T-levels and of opportunities for all our young people. Labour recognises the instability that is being caused by the Government's reckless treatment of our nation's vital further education sector. The next Labour government will ensure all students are able to complete their courses and will review the diversity of options at Level 3 before making further changes.

Thank you for writing to me on this and I look forward to working with you all to ensure young people have the opportunities they need to progress successfully in their educations.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bridget Phillipson".

Bridget Phillipson MP
Shadow Secretary of State for Education
Member of Parliament for Houghton & Sunderland South