



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Nick Raynsford MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

9th March 2015

Dear Nick,

Today the government has approved a new free school for Woolwich and Greenwich, which will provide more high-quality school places for young people in your area.

As you will be aware, the Labour Party wants to stifle the free school programme. Indeed Ed Miliband recently said that all schools should be returned to local authority control, which would effectively bring the programme to an end. This is despite the fact that free schools are more likely to be judged outstanding than other local schools, performing better than council run schools, and are bringing vital new ideas and approaches that are benefitting young people across the country. They are also popular with parents, attracting almost three applications per place.

Despite the Labour Party's national position, we know that many Labour candidates and MPs choose to support free schools at a local level because they recognise the need for more high-quality school places and the impact free schools have on driving up standards in other local schools.

I would like to invite you to confirm your commitment to the free school that we have announced today. Will you join me in welcoming this excellent new school and the high-quality education it will provide for young people here in Woolwich and Greenwich?

I look forward to hearing back from you.

Yours sincerely,

The Rt Hon. Nicky Morgan MP