



INCREASE FUNDING FOR SIXTH FORM EDUCATION

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Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

23 October 2018

Dear Chancellor,

We are writing to you as the associations that represent school and college leaders, governors, students, teachers and support staff to urge you to address the funding crisis in 16 to 18 education.

Sixth form funding was cut twice after 2010 and the national funding rate has been frozen at £4,000 since 2013 (it was reduced to £3,300 for 18 year olds the following year). The running costs of schools and colleges have increased sharply since 2010 and the government has imposed a range of new requirements on institutions. This has left much less money for schools and colleges to spend on the front line education of students at a time when the needs of young people have become increasingly complex (for example the sharp rise in students experiencing mental health problems).

This sustained underinvestment in sixth form education is having a negative impact on the education of students, the financial health of schools and colleges, and the ability of government to achieve its ambitions for the economy and society. Only a significant increase in the national funding rate for 16 to 18 year olds will make it possible for the government to meet its objectives for a strong post-Brexit economy and a socially mobile, highly educated workforce.

Recent research from London Economics has shown that an increase in funding of at least £760 per student is required to continue providing a high quality education to young people. We believe the national funding rate should therefore be raised to £4,760 per student (for 16, 17 and 18 year olds) and then raised in line with inflation each year. This is the minimum amount of additional funding required to:

- Increase student support services to the minimum required level (e.g. improving the mental and physical health of students)
- Protect minority subjects that are at risk of being dropped (e.g. modern foreign languages)
- Increase non-qualification time (e.g. extra-curricular activities, work experience, university visits)

Next year's spending review provides the ideal vehicle to implement this important change. However, as an increase announced next year would not take effect until 2020/21, we urge you to agree to increase the national funding rate by at least 5% (£200 per student) in next week's Budget. This modest increase would provide some much needed financial stability and ensure that schools and colleges can continue to deliver the high class education our young people deserve.

Yours sincerely

Mary W. Bousted.

Geoff Barton.

Geoff Barton
ASCL General Secretary

Kevin Courtney

Mary Bousted and Kevin
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Emily Chapman
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Paul Whiteman
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SSAT Chief Executive

cc.

Rt Hon Liz Truss MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury

Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP, Secretary of State for Education

Rt Hon Anne Milton MP, Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills