

HEIDI ALLEN MP
SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

To - The Rt Hon Theresa May, Prime Minister
Cc - The Rt Hon Philip Hammond, Chancellor of the Exchequer

26th June 2019

Dear Prime Minister,

We write to ask you to use your final few weeks in office to address one of the 'burning injustices' you so adroitly highlighted upon becoming Prime Minister; a fair chance in life for every child through a great education.

All children deserve the opportunity to learn and reach their potential because whatever they aspire to become, be it a plumber or Prime Minister, a great education is the foundation for success.

To respond to the challenges we will face as a nation, we will need to unleash more of the creativity, ingenuity, talent and skill for which we are known. Within the United Kingdom we have scientists mapping the human genome for the benefit of mankind whilst pupils across the country are experiencing half-day teaching timetables; crumbling buildings; larger class sizes and little to no SEN provision.

As we turn to face future generations, we must account for the choices we make today as parliamentarians and account for the investment made in our nation's future.

We have a teaching profession that aspires for excellence and we are blessed with children who feel hopeful and ambitious for the future. But aspiration is not enough. Excellence requires resources – inspirational teachers who feel valued, buildings that are fit for purpose, materials that stimulate and engage. Government must set these standards, fund these resources and build these opportunities.

You have an historic opportunity to leave a legacy to education.

On Tuesday, the Institute for Fiscal Studies published their report into school funding, estimating a **one-off increase of £1.8bn** as the minimum required to ensure there is sufficient funding to meet the cost pressures faced by schools.

The Association of School and College Leaders analysis estimates that the budget for schools in 2019/20 is **£5.7 billion less** than required.

We were fortunate enough to enjoy an education that allowed us to realise our ambitions and today's children deserve the same. Please, do the right thing while you are still our Prime Minister, and commit to an increased education spend that creates the opportunities we know you envisaged, for all.

Yours sincerely,

Heidi Allen, MP

Rushanara Ali, MP

Adrian Bailey, MP

Luciana Berger, MP

Ben Bradshaw, MP

Tom Brake, MP

Vince Cable, MP

Ronald Campbell, MP

Alistair Carmichael, MP

David Crausby, MP

Ann Coffey, MP

Janet Daby, MP

Paul Farrelly, MP

Tim Farron, MP

Frank Field, MP

Roger Godsiff, MP

Wera Hobhouse, MP

George Howarth, MP

Peter Kyle, MP

Ivan Lewis, MP

Holly Lynch, MP

Paula Sheriff, MP

Jamie Stone, MP

Catherine West, MP

Daniel Zeichner, MP

Norman Lamb, MP

Stephen Lloyd, MP

Layla Moran, MP

Gavin Shuker, MP

Jo Swinson, MP

Paul Williams, MP

David Lammy, MP

Caroline Lucas, MP

Jim Shannon, MP

Ruth Smeeth, MP

Chuka Umunna, MP

John Woodcock, MP