11th October 2016

Dear Constituent,

RE: FAITH SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

Thank you for contacting me about further education.

Further education is key to ensuring our workforce is equipped with the skills our economy needs.

The Government wants strong local areas and for employers to take a leading role in establishing a post-16 skills system that is responsive to local economic priorities, financially resilient and able to offer high quality post-16 education and training. A series of area-based reviews is already being carried out to establish how local areas can set up institutions that do this.

Colleges will be invited to specialise according to local economic priorities, to provide better targeted basic skills alongside professional and technical education. Some of these will be invited to become prestigious Institutes of Technology which will be sponsored by employers, registered with professional bodies and aligned with apprenticeship standards.

It makes sense for savings to be found by prioritising investment and I am glad that apprenticeships - which are essential to give young people the opportunity they need to secure a better future - is one area that is being protected. The introduction of a new apprenticeship levy will require large employers to invest in their own future so that the 3 million apprenticeships delivered during this Parliament will be well funded, high quality, and meet employers' real needs.

I also welcome the announcement that the Government will provide new financial support through tuition fee loans for higher level skills in Further Education.

The Government will make £360 million of efficiencies and savings from adult skills budget by 2019-20. However, further-education college spending on adult skills will be protected in cash terms at £1.5 billion. Key providers will also be able to benefit from the significant increase in apprenticeship spending of almost £900 million by 2019-20.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Jeremy Quin