



House of Commons
Westminster
London
SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP
Secretary of State for Education
Department for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
20 Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT

23 June 2020

Dear Gavin,

Re: Sixth Form Education

As the officers of the All Party Parliamentary Group for sixth form education, we share your determination to ensure that no young people lose out as a result of Covid-19.

The £1 billion Covid catch-up fund to tackle the impact of lost teaching time is welcome, and we hope that it benefits pupils in primary and secondary schools. However, we do not understand why 16 to 19 providers such as sixth form and other colleges are not able to access this fund.

Funding for 16 to 19 education is significantly lower than funding for 11 to 16 education, and 16 to 19 year olds studying in colleges already face a number of funding inequalities despite being more disadvantaged than their peers in school sixth forms. So we find it very hard to understand why these young people will not be able to benefit from the Covid catch-up fund.

We urge you to extend eligibility for the Covid catch-up fund to include sixth form and other colleges, and to clarify whether other 16 to 19 providers such as school sixth forms, 16-19 academies and 16-19 free schools are eligible to access the fund.

Yours sincerely,

Dame Diana Johnson DBE MP Co-Chair
Jason McCartney MP Co-Chair

Peter Aldous MP Vice Chair
Rachel Hopkins MP Vice Chair
Caroline Lucas MP Vice Chair
Caroline Nokes MP Vice Chair
William Wragg MP Vice Chair

cc.

Gillian Keegan MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Apprenticeships and Skills
Baroness Berridge of The Vale of Catmose, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the School System
Rt Hon Robert Halfon MP, Chair of the Education Select Committee