



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP
Minister of State for School Standards
20 Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT

4th August 2020

Queensbury Special School Capital Support Grant

Dear Nick,

I am writing to give my full support and appreciation for the Capital Support Grant of £964,671 for Queensbury Special School (located in Erdington, Birmingham) from the Department for Education.

The school is due to become an academy on the 1st September 2020, with the sponsor being The Education Impact Trust (Wilson Stuart School). I am aware through communication with the school and Interim Head teacher (Chris Wilson) that this is subject to Ministerial sign off, on the 17th August 2020.

Wilson Stuart School (The Sponsor) has been rated by Ofsted as an 'Outstanding school' for its last six consecutive inspections, dating back over 20 years. Working with the Birmingham City Council Local Authority and Birmingham Education Partnership (BEP), they have deployed Chris Wilson (a Trust employee) to lead the school as Head Teacher, when it was threatened with closure.

The school has been stabilised through high quality leadership, a drive to improve rapidly and tenacity for high standards. It has made significant improvements in its delivery and service to young people with complex additional needs and their families. The morale of the school permeates a different milieu and drive to succeed. More recently, it has led other schools with its innovative approaches during the COVID 19 lockdown.

Wide ranging support from Steve Hughes (CEO- The Education Impact Trust), David Bishop (IEB Chair), BEP Monitoring and Local Authority has ensured the school standards continue to be raised.

These funds combined with the agreed Local Authority cabinet approved funds of £2 million and Trust funding will allow the school to continue rapidly on its improvement journey. The young people will have a building that is warm, dry, safe and something they can be proud of.

Replacement windows, boilers and roofs will ensure the young people learn in an environment that is sensitive to their special educational needs. Currently, eight classrooms are located in mobile buildings which are over thirty years old. In addition, these provide

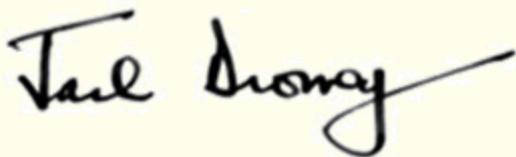
over stimulation for many of the young people with Autism or Social Emotional and Mental Health needs. The £1.5 Million (LA Grant) is identified for purpose-built classrooms with appropriate SEND facilities. The other funds are for immediate health and safety works over the next 12 months.

This investment in the most vulnerable in society and in a ward of Birmingham that is in the highest quintile of deprivation will result in outstanding education opportunities, long into the future.

I would also like to acknowledge the support from the Department for Education, in particular Grace Laws and Imran Qadir, who have maintained excellent communication with the school and Trust.

Finally, from the families and communities I serve within Erdington, I would like to pass on my unwavering support for this grant funding to further drive education standards and provision offered for our future generations.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jack Dromey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Jack Dromey
Member of Parliament for Birmingham, Erdington