



## INCREASE FUNDING FOR SIXTH FORM EDUCATION

[RaisetheRate.org.uk](https://raisetherate.org.uk)  
#raisetherate

### Campaign Summary

- To ensure that schools and colleges can continue to deliver a high quality, internationally-competitive education, the national funding rate for 16-18s (the 'rate') should be raised to at least **£4,760** per student, per year in the 2021 spending review and raised in line with inflation.
- [Research from London Economics](#) found that this was the minimum level required to:
  - Increase student support services to the 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).
- Education funding for 16 to 18 year olds has been cut sharply since 2010. During that time, costs have risen significantly, the needs of students have become more complex and the government has demanded much more of colleges and schools. However, the national funding rate for 16 and 17 year olds was frozen at £4,000 per student, per year from 2013 to 2020 (and was reduced to £3,300 per year for 18 year olds in 2014).
- In the September 2019 spending round, the government [announced](#) that it would raise the rate for 16 and 17 year olds to **£4,188** per student. In the September 2020 spending review, it announced that it would keep the rate at this level. This is a welcome first step, but it is essential that the rate is raised to at least **£4,760** per student in the 2021 spending review. This is the *minimum* level of additional funding required by schools and colleges.
- This sustained underinvestment in sixth form funding is having a negative impact on the education of students, the financial health of colleges and schools, and the ability of government to achieve its ambitions for the economy and social mobility. The [funding impact survey](#) carried out by the Raise the Rate campaign in 2019 showed that:
  - **51%** of schools and colleges have dropped courses in modern foreign languages
  - **38%** have dropped STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) courses
  - **78%** have reduced student support services or extra-curricular activities – with significant cuts to mental health support, employability skills and careers advice
  - **81%** are teaching students in larger class sizes
- Raising the rate for 16, 17 *and* 18 year olds to **£4,760** per student (and ensuring it keeps pace with inflation and other costs) is the only way to ensure funding is sufficient and made available in a way that institutions can tailor to the individual needs of their students.
- There is now widespread support for the Raise the Rate campaign. In July 2019, the [Education Select Committee](#) joined the [Social Mobility Commission](#) and [Ofsted Chief Inspector](#) in calling for a significant increase in the national funding rate.
- This is essential if the government is to meet its objectives for a strong post-Covid, post-Brexit economy and a socially mobile, highly educated workforce. Increasing investment in this pivotal stage between secondary education and higher education or employment should be a major priority in the 2021 spending review. The case to Raise the Rate has never been stronger.

For more information about the campaign, visit [RaisetheRate.org.uk](https://raisetherate.org.uk) #raisetherate