



INCREASE FUNDING FOR SIXTH FORM EDUCATION

RaisetheRate.org.uk
#raisetherate

Engaging MPs in the Raise the Rate campaign

Who is my MP?

You can find your MP by clicking [here](#). Remember it is important to contact MPs for neighbouring constituencies, not just the constituency your college or school is based in.

Why am I contacting them?

To secure their support for the [Raise the Rate campaign](#). The aim of the campaign is to secure two commitments in the spending review that is taking place in 2020 (probably in November):

- Raise the rate for 16, 17 and 18 year old students to at least £4,760 per year
- Raise the rate in line with inflation each year

How should I secure their support?

The most effective way to secure buy-in from MPs is by inviting them to the college/school and then meeting them on a regular (ideally termly) basis. Some tips for a successful visit:

- **Format.** The ideal meeting will have a. some one-to-one time with the principal/head b. some time with students c. a photo opportunity. The time with the principal/head is useful in building a rapport and sharing information/concerns that it may not be appropriate to share with a wider audience. The student time can take a variety of forms such as a Q&A session, visiting an A level politics class and lunch with students. It is always worth briefing students so their messages are broadly consistent with yours. And the photo opportunity should be linked to the campaign (see below).
- **Content.** Given how pivotal the spending review is this year, the main focus of the meeting should be the Raise the Rate campaign. Use the meeting to add local colour to the national messages in the campaign briefing notes and other documents. Other issues will of course be discussed, but Raise the Rate must be front and centre. Always follow up after a visit and aim to get a termly meeting in the diary if possible.
- **Photo opportunity.** During the visit, get a picture of the MP – ideally with students, and ideally with the Raise the Rate banner or poster (additional copies are available in the media toolkit) and tweet using #raisetherate. Share the picture with your MPs office and encourage them to send out a press release to the local media.

What does success look like?

Ultimately, success is ensuring that your local MPs are *active* supporters of the Raise the Rate campaign. Some MPs will be able to get more publicly involved than others. Backbench MPs can table written and oral questions about the campaign (we can help to formulate these), secure a Parliamentary debate on sixth form funding and support the campaign on twitter etc. You should ask your MPs to do all these things when you meet them, and write to both the Secretary of State for Education and the Chancellor of the Exchequer about the campaign. While serving ministers and others on the 'payroll vote' are unable to get as publicly involved, they can still have informal conversations with HMT and DfE ministers and write private letters setting out the case for change.

Where can I find out more?

More information is available on the campaign website RaisetheRate.org.uk