



INCREASE FUNDING FOR SIXTH FORM EDUCATION

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Campaign Summary

- To ensure that schools and colleges can continue to deliver a high quality, internationally-competitive education, the government should raise the national funding rate for 16 to 18 year olds (the 'rate') by at least **£760** per student, per year in the 2019 spending review. The rate should then be raised in line with inflation each year.
- Recent [research from London Economics](#) found that this was the minimum level of additional funding 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).
- It is important that this rate rise is in addition to, rather than instead of, funding that may be required by schools and colleges to meet new costs such as increased employer contributions to the Teachers' Pension Scheme. London Economics found that institutions would require a further **£140** per student, per year if the proposed [increase](#) in employer contributions to the Teachers' Pension Scheme was not fully funded by the government.
- Sixth form funding (also known as 16 to 18 funding) was subject to deep cuts in 2011 and 2013. The national funding rate for 16 and 17 year olds (which is by far the biggest component of the 16 to 18 funding formula) has remained frozen at **£4,000** per student, per year since 2013/14. The rate for 18 year olds was reduced to £3,300 per student the following year.
- Raising the rate for 16, 17 *and* 18 year olds to **£4760** 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.
- Sustained underinvestment in sixth form education is having a negative impact on the education of students, the financial health of schools and colleges, and the ability of government to achieve its ambitions for the economy and social mobility. The [funding impact survey](#) carried out by Raise the Rate partners showed that:
 - **50%** of schools and colleges have dropped courses in modern foreign languages
 - **34%** have dropped STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) courses
 - **67%** have reduced student support services or extra-curricular activities – with significant cuts to mental health support, employability skills and careers advice
 - **77%** are teaching students in larger class sizes
- Only a significant increase in the national funding rate for 16 to 18 year olds will make it possible for the government to meet its objectives for a strong post-Brexit economy and a socially mobile, highly educated workforce. Increasing investment in this pivotal stage between key stage 4 and higher education or employment should be a major government priority in the forthcoming spending review. The case to Raise the Rate has never been stronger.

For more information about the campaign, visit RaisetheRate.org.uk #raisetherate