

12 January 2018

Rt. Hon Damien Hinds MP
Secretary of State for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3BT

Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing to congratulate you, on behalf of UCET members, on your appointment as Secretary of State for Education.

UCET is a membership organisation for the universities and other organisations involved in teacher education and education research. We, as do our members, work in partnership with schools and with school-based SCITT teacher education providers to provide high-quality initial teacher education and CPD. Our work is informed by our formal relationship with the National Association of School Based Teacher Trainers (NASBTT) and by the senior school leaders that make up our School Reference Group. We have in recent years worked constructively with ministers and officials from DFE and we hope that this will continue into the future. Recent examples of successful collaboration have included the development of proposals to strengthen QTS and the new apprenticeship route into teaching.

The country is currently faced with a serious teacher recruitment problem. It is therefore essential that we maintain the teacher supply base provided by teacher education partnerships on which our schools depend. We also need to attract and retain teachers by making sure they receive the professional development support they need. Recent proposals relating to the strengthening of QTS have the potential to secure this. In the longer term, and also building on the QTS proposals, we would like to see progress made towards teaching becoming an all Master's qualified profession, something that would represent the biggest step-change in terms of status and prestige since it became an all graduate profession in the 1970s.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if we can be of any help to you in your new role.

Yours sincerely,

James Noble-Rogers
Executive Director
UCET