Promoting Quality in Teacher Education

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Universities' Council for the Education of Teachers

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Catherine Mc Kinnell MP
Minister of State for Schools
Department for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3BT

Dear Minister,

Teacher supply and teacher education

I am writing to congratulate you on your appointment as Minister of State for Schools. We are looking forward to supporting you and working with you on the range of issues to do with teacher supply, initial teacher education (ITE) and the professional development of teachers. We have developed a strong and effective working relationship with your officials over the years and we very much hope that this will continue. You may also remember that my colleagues and I met with you at your constituency office in Newcastle just before Christmas.

We would very much like to have another meeting – either in London or Newcastle (I live in Jesmond) – to discuss teacher supply and teacher education. The country is, as you well know, faced with a serious teacher supply crisis and we very much welcome your manifesto commitment to recruit 6,500 new teachers. We also support the review of financial incentives for those entering ITE, which chimes well with our own manifesto proposals and with the evidence we gave to the Education Select Committee report into teacher recruitment, retention and training. We support the policy that all teachers should have, or be working towards, QTS and we agree with the principle of a training entitlement for teachers.

We would like to suggest some areas for immediate attention. As well as taking steps to address the teacher supply crisis in line with your manifesto commitments, we would welcome a review of the requirements relating to the content and structure of ITE, where giving universities and SCITTs greater flexibility in how they design and deliver their programmes could allow more schools to offer placements to student teachers and so boost recruitment. We would also like to discuss ways in which teacher education can address key issues such as the climate crisis and equality and diversity issues.

I have pleasure including with this letter a copy of our recently published briefing paper/manifesto and which can form the basis for our ongoing discussions.

Yours sincerely,



James Noble-Rogers
Executive Director