



**Rt Hon Anne Milton MP**

Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills and Minister for Women  
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Dear David Torsyth

26th Oct 2018

Thank you for inviting me to give evidence to the Economic Affairs Committee inquiry on the economics of higher, further and technical education. During the inquiry, Honourable Members expressed their concerns about the quality of careers advice that some students receive and the tendency for some schools to portray university as the only option. I am writing to let you know what we are doing to address these important issues.

We have published a careers strategy that outlines how we will improve careers provision in schools and colleges so that every young person is able to make an informed decision about the career path that is right for them. Central to our plan is the adoption of the Gatsby Charitable Foundation's Benchmarks. We have published statutory guidance that sets out our expectation for schools and colleges to use these Benchmarks to improve their careers provision, and will be funding a range of initiatives to help them achieve these world class standards. These include:

- £5m for a new round of The Careers & Enterprise Company's Investment Fund to help disadvantaged young people have more encounters with employers;
- £5m to trial "career hubs" in 20 areas to strengthen local community involvement in careers provision; and
- £4m for new training programmes to support at least 500 schools and colleges in areas of the country needing most support to train their own Careers Leaders.

The careers strategy recognises that to make an informed choice, young people need to be provided with information on the full range of education, training and employment options. We have introduced legislation that requires schools to give providers of technical education, including apprenticeships, the opportunity to talk to pupils about the courses and jobs they offer. The new law, originally proposed by Lord Baker of Dorking, came into force in January 2018 and will make sure that young people learn about opportunities for education and training outside school so that they are able to make informed choices about their future. The strategy also outlines how we will improve the information on the National Careers Service website to make sure that young people have the right information on the full range of options.

Our reforms to technical education and apprenticeships are a crucial component of the Government's plan to tackle the current shortage of skilled

workers, putting employers in control and enabling them to develop their workforces now and for the future.

The success of these crucial reforms is dependent upon young people knowing about the full range of opportunities available to them.

I strongly encourage you to read the careers strategy, which is available in the House Libraries and online at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/careers-strategy-making-the-most-of-everyones-skills-and-talents>.

I am copying this letter to Members of the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Best wishes  
Anne.

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I have seen the early  
developments of the careers website  
and am impressed! I look  
forward to reading your report.