



Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Secretary of State

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Dear colleague

I am humbled and delighted that the Prime Minister has appointed me Secretary of State for Education in the new coalition Government. Nothing is more important for our country than getting education right. Schools are where we introduce our children to the best that has been thought and written and education is the process by which we enable every child to take control of their destiny, and to become author of their own life story. That's why the first thing I want to do is to thank you for your work. Teaching is the most important profession in the life of our nation.

I am deeply grateful for everything the teaching profession has already achieved. But I want to go further, both in improving schools and closing the gap between the richest and the poorest. A key principle behind this partnership Government is trusting professionals. That is why this Government will give you more power and control and will trust you to get on with the job.

Your views are extremely important to me. I would welcome your thoughts on how you believe we can raise attainment, particularly for the poorest children, and how we might enhance the prestige and status of the teaching profession. If you would like to get in contact please contact me at feedbacktoministers@education.gsi.gov.uk

Over the coming months our key priorities will include:

- reducing bureaucracy;
- giving teachers and heads more say over the curriculum;
- giving teachers and heads more power to ensure good behaviour; and
- giving all schools the opportunity to apply for Academy freedoms if they wish to do so.

The Queen's Speech yesterday was the first step in making these changes a reality. It set out our plans to open up the Academies programme to allow all primary, secondary and special schools to gain Academy status.

If you would like to register your interest in doing this or would like to find out more information please go to the Department for Education website www.education.gov.uk/academies.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Gove". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and a long, sweeping tail.

MICHAEL GOVE