



**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](mailto:feedbacktoministers@education.gsi.gov.uk).

The Queen's Speech sets out our intention to allow more schools to benefit from Academy freedoms and our aim to open up the Academies programme to primary, secondary and special schools. We specifically want to provide opportunities for outstanding schools to open as Academies as early as September 2010.

As your school is currently rated outstanding by Ofsted this means it would automatically meet the criteria to apply for Academy status. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you and your Governing Body to consider acquiring academy freedoms, which include:

- freedom from local authority control;
- ability to set your own pay and conditions for staff;
- freedom from following the national curriculum;
- ability to change the length of terms and school days;
- having greater control over school budgets; and
- freedom to spend the money the local authority currently spends on your behalf.

All schools acquiring these freedoms will be liberated from the bureaucracy which was attached to Academies from 2007.

If you are interested in taking up this opportunity or would like to find out more information please go to the Department for Education website [www.education.gov.uk/academies](http://www.education.gov.uk/academies) where you can register your school by the on-line registration form. Following registration you will be contacted by a member of staff from the Department with further guidance and support on the conversion process.

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