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From The Direct Communications Unit

17 October 2016

Mr Fred Jarvis
92 Hadley Road
Barnet
Hertfordshire
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Dear Mr Jarvis

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your recent correspondence about grammar schools.

The Government's mission is to build a country that works for everyone, not just the privileged few. The Prime Minister believes that this starts in our schools and she wants a good school place for every child. Every child should have the chance to go to a school that works for them – one that caters to their individual needs, abilities and interests. As she set out in her recent speech at the British Academy, Britain should be the world's great meritocracy – a place where advantage is based on merit and not privilege, and where it is your talent and hard work that matter, not where you were born or who your parents are.

The Prime Minister's speech was about a lot more than just selective schools. It was about delivering an increase in the capacity of the school system so that all families can be sure of their children getting good school places. This is why the Government is proposing that universities, independent schools and faith schools should have a greater role in providing more good school places. The Government wants to relax the restrictions around selective schools, reform university fair access requirements and actively involve them in strengthening state school attainment, encourage independent schools to apply their expertise to improve state schools and remove the obstacles that stop more good faith schools opening. New grammars will be just one element of a truly diverse system and will contribute meaningfully to raising outcomes for all pupils in every part of the system.

In practice this would mean taking a proportion of pupils from lower income households, so that selective education is not reserved for those with the means to move into a catchment area or the ability to pay for tuition to pass a test. The Prime Minister also proposed that, as a condition of opening a new selective school, new grammar schools could be asked to establish a good, new non-selective school. You may be aware of a currently ongoing consultation about creating more good school places. I would encourage you to take part via the following link: <https://consult.education.gov.uk/school-frameworks/schools-that-work-for-everyone>.

This is not a proposal to go back to a binary model of grammars and secondary moderns but to build on our increasingly diverse schools system. There will be no return to secondary moderns. Far from a binary system, we are supporting the most diverse school system we have ever had in our country.

Taken as a whole, the Government's approach will give every child the support they need to go as far as their talents can take them and ensure every parent – no matter their income - can choose the right school for their child and give them the best start in life.

Thank you, once again, for taking the time to write to the Prime Minister on this important matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. J. H.', written in a cursive style.

Correspondence Officer