

Dear MP

I am writing to you as your constituent to ask you to back the Independent Society of Musicians and Edge Foundation's #SaveOurSubjects campaign to protect arts and technology subjects in state secondary schools.

These subjects are under threat and in recent years we have seen them disappearing from the curriculum. Our education system currently supports a knowledge-rich, narrow curriculum. This has been reinforced by school accountability measures such as the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) and Progress 8, which encourage schools to focus on 'core' academic subjects at the expense of subjects such as music, drama, art, dance, and design and technology.

This narrowing of the curriculum has had a dramatic impact on arts and technology subjects at secondary school level. GCSE entries in arts and technology subjects are falling, with the number of pupils taking the design and technology GCSE alone [falling by 71% between 2020 and 2022](#). This is coupled with a decline in teachers teaching these subjects. Between 2011/12 and 2021/22 the [number of media studies teachers](#) dropped by 40% and the number of design and technology teachers by 48%. Data also shows that 64% of teaching time in 2021/22 was taken up with teaching EBacc subjects, leaving only a small portion of time for arts, PE, RE or relevant vocational subjects. Teachers agree that the education system is skewed towards academic subjects, with a recent [survey](#) finding that less than half of secondary school teachers think the curriculum is 'broad and balanced'.

Our creative industries also contribute substantially to the economy. In 2019 the [Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport](#) (DCMS) estimated that the creative industries contributed £115.9 billion to the UK. Employers have also expressed concern and organisations such as the [CBI](#) have called for a curriculum that 'instead of narrowing horizons, broadens them, and fosters skills such as creativity, resilience, communication, and problem-solving.'

It is therefore vital that urgent action is taken to expand the curriculum and support arts and technology subjects in schools. As my MP, I am calling on you to support the campaign by:

- Writing to the Secretaries of State for Education and Digital, Culture, Media and Sport on my behalf, supporting the campaign's three asks:
  1. Review the impact of accountability measures (the EBacc and Progress 8) on arts and technology subjects
  2. Reform the Progress 8 accountability measure, giving pupils more freedom of choice at GCSE
  3. Deliver the Arts Premium promised in the Conservatives' 2019 election manifesto
- Raising this issue in Parliament by tabling oral and written questions or applying for a backbench debate
- Signing the campaign's [open letter](#) to the Secretary of State for Education
- Tweeting your support for arts and technology subjects, using the #SaveOurSubjects hashtag

I look forward to your response, outlining what steps you will take to address my concerns.

Yours sincerely