



## Department for Education

The Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP  
Secretary of State for Education

Helen Hayes MP  
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Dear Helen,

I am writing to you as today marks the publication of the independent Curriculum and Assessment Review's Interim Report. The Interim Report examines the current state of our national curriculum, identifying areas of strength and where further progress can be made to deliver a curriculum which is rich and broad, inclusive and innovative supporting the achievement of every child. Whilst the Interim Report does not offer recommendations, the Final Report with recommendations from the independent panel will be published in the Autumn. The Review will play a vital role in the government's mission to break down barriers to opportunity and unlock the stronger outcomes that support economic growth and a better future for children and young people.

Alongside the Review, the department is continuing to drive high and rising school standards delivered through excellent teaching and leadership, a high-quality curriculum, and tackling barriers to learning underpinned by robust accountability and faster school improvement. As part of this, last month we announced new investment in reading and writing to support pupils to move from phonics to fluency in their reading to be delivered in through our English hubs, alongside additional teacher training in secondary schools.

Going further, to help meet our ambitions to ensure the arts are no longer the preserve of a privileged few, I am today also announcing the launch of a new National Centre for Arts and Music Education. The Centre will promote arts education, including signposting to careers guidance and opportunities for children and young people to pursue their artistic and creative interests in school, including through our national network of Music Hubs; it will drive excellent arts teaching through a new CPD offer to schools; and support partnerships between schools and cultural providers, helping teachers to maximise the opportunities available to them and their pupils.

To complement the curriculum, the Department will also work with experts to develop an Enrichment Framework to be published before the end of the calendar year that will identify the range of different enrichment activity that pupils should have access to and reflect best practice in providing support to schools on how to plan a high-quality enrichment offer strategically and intentionally that can be supported by wider provision locally. We will consider with the sector whether benchmarks and tools can form a useful part of that support.

I will be appointing a task and finish group to advise on digital, AI and technology in order to increase the future pipeline of talent with digital and AI specific skills and prepare children and young people to be ready for an AI and tech-enabled world, as well as making the most of opportunities to use AI and educational technology (EdTech) to drive better teaching and learning.

While I will consider carefully any recommendations for reform made by the panel, I can confirm that primary assessments will be retained. This is in recognition of the vital role the tests play in providing crucial information to schools, parents and government on pupil's progress, in particular, as they transition to secondary school, and in helping to close the gap between disadvantaged children and their peers.

Together, this package of measures shows that this government is serious about delivering high and rising standards for every child, as well as giving them access to a broad and rich education.

I look forward to working with the Select committee on delivering this vital work.

*Yours sincerely,*

*Bridget*

**The Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP  
Secretary of State for Education**