

OurRef: 164791

Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP
House of Commons
London
SW1AOAA

department
culture, media
and Sport

31 January 2011

Dear Grant

Thank you for your letter of 21 January enclosing correspondence from the Chairman of the Welwyn Hatfield Sport and Physical Activity Alliance, Mr David Bartlett, regarding concerns about school sport.

The Department for Education has announced that it will provide funding of £65 million for the school years 2011/12 and 2012/13, so that secondary schools can release a PE teacher to organise competitive sports, embed good practice and train primary teachers.

We want to get more young people playing sport through a new 'School Games', inspired by the Olympic and Paralympic values, which Sport England is supporting with £35.5 million of lottery funding from now to 20214/15. Every school will be invited to sign up.

Additionally, the Department of Health is providing up to £6.4 million over the next two years to secure the future of Change4Life Sports Clubs and broaden the range of Olympic and Paralympic sports available to children in primary and secondary schools. They are also investing up to £14 million over the next two years to support levels of participation in the School Games by primary schools. PE will be a central part of the national curriculum, which will have a new emphasis on competitive sports.

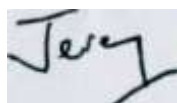
The Department for Education has secured a good settlement for schools at a time when cutting the national deficit is a national priority. Schools value PE and sport and will continue to use their settlement to provide this for all pupils. The last Government's PE and Sports strategy was driven by top-down targets and limited the freedom of individual schools on how they used their funding, especially on PE and sport.

We have discarded the last Government's targets. They have removed the ring fenced funding which limited teachers' powers to spend money as they wished. Schools funding can now be spent through a variety of sources. For the first time schools now have the freedom to choose how they deliver sport in schools. This is a bottom-up decentralised approach to sport.

We recognise the good work that School Sport Partnerships, and national bodies such as the Youth Sports Trust, Sport England, the Association for PE, Sportscoach UK, and many national governing bodies of sport, have done in supporting sport in schools and wants to ensure that there is a smooth transition to this new system.

In addition, recently announced plans for the mass participation legacy from London 2012. Places People Play will bring a sporting legacy to communities across the country, answering London 2012's Singapore promise to inspire a new generation to play sport.

Best wishes



Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP
Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport