



Department  
for Education

To all Chairs of FE College Corporations,  
College Principals

23 July 2014

*Dear colleagues*

I am writing first of all to say a sincere thank you to all those who have written to congratulate me on my new appointment.

I wanted to also say that I am incredibly pleased and excited to be the Minister for Skills and Equalities.

In addition I am pleased to be part of the Ministerial team at the Department for Education where my responsibilities include Apprenticeships, Further Education and Careers.

In today's global race we need a highly skilled workforce. Twenty per cent of the growth in the output of UK workers can be attributed to the growth in their skill levels. An incredible amount has been achieved over last 4 years in developing the skills system to ensure Britain's competitiveness and I am determined to build on the passionate work of my predecessor, Matthew Hancock. We are opening up new vocational opportunities, especially Apprenticeships, and I see colleges playing a role in working alongside us to understand that they are understood. I am hugely looking forward to working with you in this respect.

I am also keen to maintain the end of term letters as I know that you find these helpful in keeping abreast of policy developments. In the interim I attach the latest summary of progress in implementing *Rigour and Responsiveness*.

Thank you also for the many kind invitations to visit your institutions that I have already received. I have asked my officials to consider your requests as they coordinate a visits programme for the next few months.

*Dr Sebastian*

*Nick Boles*

**NICK BOLES MP**



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