

CONFIDENTIAL

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Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

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2nd June 1986

The Rt Hon John MacGregor OBE MP
Chief Secretary to the Treasury
HM Treasury
Parliament Street
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John

TVEI EXTENSION

I have seen David Young's letter to you of 30 May. I have also seen the report of the Interdepartmental Group on TVEI Development. FILE WITH UN

The assessment of officials, based on the evidence now coming through of the pilot schemes, is encouraging. It warrants a renewal of our intention to use new mechanisms to achieve greater practical relevance in the school and FE curriculum, and better to equip 14-18 year olds for work (and life!) after full-time education.

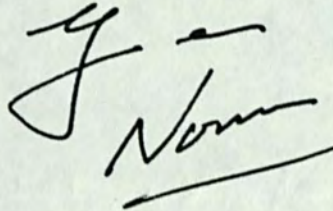
I strongly support David's proposal that TVEI should be extended to a full national programme beginning in September 1987.

I am conscious that some educational interests will seek to contrast this announcement, and the level of funding attached to it, with the alleged inadequacy of the resources available to support the introduction of the GCSE examinations. Conversely, if a national TVEI scheme were announced with greatly reduced funding, the accusations would, if anything, be louder, saying that we had again sought to impose major changes upon schools while leaving them woefully ill-equipped to do the job.

Kenneth Baker will wish to consider this carefully. My view is that we have not yet adequately publicised the funds already made available for GCSE (notably the recent specific grants announcement), and we need to try to win over the acceptance of the teaching unions (particularly the head teachers) to going ahead with GCSE. This may require some modest further support for equipment costs.

If this can be achieved, an announcement on TVEI could proceed much more smoothly. I am conscious of the importance which may attach to TVEI as we consider options for the structure of education; I therefore hope that the announcement can go ahead as planned.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Prime Minister, Nick Edwards, David Young, Kenneth Baker, Malcolm Rifkind and Paul Channon.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Norman Tebbit', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

NORMAN TEBBIT

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