

RECEIVED 18 FEB 2017

18th

Dear John

Thank you so much for your time and genuine interest in STEP at Holyrood on Wednesday. Like you, I am passionate about helping Scottish children avoid feeling as unsuccessful as I did at School. Indeed, I share your desire to see many more of our children progress to further and higher education, something I never achieved. Most importantly I want every child to feel they have had the opportunity to fulfil their potential and believe that we have a collective responsibility to get it right for each one of them.

Embedding proven and measurable physical literacy programmes into our primary schools, as a means of unlocking that potential for 8-11 year olds in the lower quintile, is something that I believe would transform their educational outcomes. The skills they will develop will allow them access the full benefits of the Curriculum for Excellence.

As importantly are the positive effects it has on a child's confidence, self-esteem and wellbeing which as we know, are as important as the academic results themselves.

Working with the Scottish Government, Councils and schools themselves I know that we can make a real difference in closing the attainment gap in Scottish primary schools over the next two years. I hope we seize that chance together.

We are looking forward to meeting again on the 23rd February

The desire to use physical literacy to close the gap exists now in Scotland and we look forward to harnessing that collective ambition.

Best wishes

[Redacted s.38(1)(b)]