

[Find out more about the Holiday Activities and Food programme](#)

A new film featuring Marcus Rashford MBE has been launched today calling on parents to sign up their children to the Government's expanded Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF).

[Watch the film here](#)

The expanded Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme has been supporting children and families in the school holidays since 2018 and was significantly expanded in light of the pandemic last year.

Funded by the Government, this year up to £220 million is available to councils across the country to run the programmes locally through holiday clubs, beginning at Easter and will continue through summer and Christmas in 2021.

The film features a holiday club at CATCH Leeds, Mandeville Primary in London and Button Lane in Manchester, Marcus Rashford's former primary school.

Children and Families Minister Vicky Ford said:

Thousands of young people will continue to benefit from the expanded Holiday Activities and Food programme, which the Government is expanding across the whole country with investment of up to £220 million. This summer it will continue to provide nutritious food, as well as activities like arts and crafts, sport, and music, to the children who would benefit the most – especially those eligible for free school meals.

I'm grateful for the support of Henry Dimbleby, Marcus Rashford and the Food Foundation as champions for the programme and I hope many others follow their lead. I urge parents and families to have a look at what's on in their area for the summer holidays.

Through the [programme](#), the Government also wants children to be more active during the school holidays and not become socially isolated.

School holidays can be a particularly difficult time for some families due to increased food and childcare costs and reduced incomes. It can mean that families struggle to provide food and activities for children. Families who take part in the programme will also be able to develop their understanding of nutrition and food budgeting by having access to information and support.

The programme helps ensure that children have access to healthy food and enriching activities throughout the school holidays.

Some councils may coordinate the clubs themselves, and others may choose to work with another organisation to provide clubs on their behalf.

Clubs will offer engaging and enriching activities such as arts, sports, drama, and music which provide opportunities to develop and strengthen skills or knowledge.

Activities on offer can also include trips and other valuable learning experiences. Clubs must also provide healthy free meals, nutritional education, and physical activities on a daily basis.

This programme builds on our previous successful pilots: In 2020, it operated across 17 local authorities, supporting around 50,000 children.

HAF is available for children who receive benefits-related free school meals. Councils are also encouraged to make the holiday clubs available to any children not eligible for and in receipt of free school meals, who can pay to attend.

For more information, visit [The Education Hub](#)

For information on how you and your family can get involved, please contact your councils.

[Prime Minister welcomes independent report on re-imagining regulation in the UK](#)

The Taskforce on Innovation, Growth and Regulatory Reform has reported its recommendations to the Prime Minister on how the UK can reshape regulation and seize new opportunities from Brexit.

In February this year, the Prime Minister asked MPs Sir Iain Duncan Smith, Theresa Villiers, and George Freeman to explore and recommend ways in which the UK can reshape its approach to regulation and seize new opportunities from Brexit with its newfound regulatory freedom, helping to drive growth, innovation and competition across the UK.

The independent report has been submitted to the Prime Minister and Government, setting out the Taskforce's vision for the UK's approach to regulation and making recommendations across a range of areas. These include ideas that could reduce barriers to start-ups and scale-ups, make the most of cutting-edge technologies from AI to autonomous vehicles, and ensure the UK remains one of the best places to do business.

In a letter to the Taskforce, Prime Minister Boris Johnson said:

Thank you so much for your work as the Taskforce on Innovation, Growth and Regulatory Reform (TIGRR).

I asked you to re-imagine, quickly and creatively, the UK's approach to regulation and make best use of our recently rediscovered freedoms. You have more than delivered on that charge, responding with substantive plans that will really put a TIGRR in the tank of British business.

It is obvious that the UK's innovators and entrepreneurs can lead the world in the economy of the future, creating new opportunities and greater prosperity along the way, and levelling up our whole country in the process. But your report makes it equally clear that, whether in data reform or clinical trials, offshore wind or autonomous vehicles, this can only happen if we clear a path through the thicket of burdensome and restrictive regulation that has grown up around our industries over the past half century.

The Government, through our Better Regulation Committee, is already hard at work on reform of the UK's regulatory framework. Your bold proposals provide a valuable template for this, illustrating the sheer level of ambitious thinking needed to usher in a new golden age of growth and innovation right across the UK.

So we will give your report the detailed consideration it deserves, consult widely across industry and civil society, and publish a response as soon as is practicable.

Finally, I want to reassure you that far from being the end of the process, your work on TIGRR is only the beginning of our drive to realise the promises of Brexit. I have asked Lord Frost to drive this critical work forward, creating a new Brexit Opportunities Unit at the heart of government to engage across society, academia, and industry, generating new ideas and acting as a counterweight to Whitehall orthodoxy.

Your report shows what a fully sovereign United Kingdom can achieve given sufficient ambition and vision on the part of its government. I look forward to drawing on your work in the months and years ahead as we build back better than ever before.

The Government will consider and respond to the report's recommendations in due course.

H.E. Governor Nigel Dakin's remarks Queen's Birthday Parade

Good morning Turks and Caicos and a particular welcome to all on this parade. Let me compliment you on your turnout, your foot and rifle drill and your bearing.

It is the 95th Birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. In our national Anthem we sing "Long to Reign Over Us" and she most certainly has. She is the longest-reigning monarch in English History, surpassing the reign of Queen Victoria six years ago.

In those 95 years of life she has been our Monarch for 69 of them. She has been on the throne during the time in office of 14 British Prime Ministers and 14 US Presidents, the first being Prime Minister Winston Churchill and President Harry S Truman respectively. A remarkable record of Service and of experience.

It is therefore entirely appropriate that we link this Parade with the notion of 'service', and also longevity of 'service'. Service as personified by those stood before me today, who I have had the privilege to inspect, and who stand before our nation. As all of us here thank Her Majesty for Her Service to us, I, on Her Majesty's behalf, and on behalf of the people of this Territory, thank you for your service to the People of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

This year thirteen have 30 years of service, two have 25 years of service and twenty eight have 18 years of service. This year they come from the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force, Her Majesty's Prison, the Customs Department and Immigration Department. They of course share in common the concept of 'enforcement'.

Enforcement takes skill and judgement and of course physical and moral courage. Wield your powers in to draconian a way and in the end there is a loss of public consent. Wield them too lightly, and there is a loss of respect not just for you, as an individual, but for the very law itself and at that point society starts to unravel. You carry a heavier constitutional burden than many understand.

If I may, at this Parade, I wish to particularly offer my thanks and respect to the Prison Service who marched past with pride today. An extraordinary change occurred at the Prison this year and that was due to leadership, teamwork and getting that balance of enforcement in exactly the right place.

To keep you out of the burning sun – and because there was no parade last year so the list is long – I will present medals today only to those Police Officers serving in Grand Turk. For those Police Officers in Providenciales we will present your medals at a Commissioners Parade later in the Summer which will also give the people of Providenciales the opportunity to enjoy

the spectacle of the Police Band and your foot and rifle drill.

Moving away from this parade ground for a moment, and on the occasion of Her Majesty's Birthday, and given the loss she suffered of her consort and most loyal supporter, I would also pay homage to Her late husband, His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. Throughout his life, he dedicated his time to many issues close to his heart. Two of them are worth dwelling on for a moment.

So first allow me to recognise the young people and their teachers with us today. The late Duke's mission was to develop and empower young people to realise their potential. There is a moment in every child's life when that potential is limitless but also their lives require focus and purpose. As a result he founded the Duke of Edinburgh Award. 13 million award journeys; 6 million awards gained; and 120 million hours of voluntary service achieved. One unique international accreditation, reaching 168 countries, over 65 years.

Young people from TCI have received in the past their Silver Awards through regional events and one young woman was presented her Gold Award by the Duke of Edinburgh himself. The Police Cadets, represented here today, and the British West Indies Collegiate, have run programs to deliver the late Duke's vision to inspire and invest in our youth, allow them to discover their potential, learn new skills and most important, forge new friendships along the way. This is how self-confidence and self-discipline builds something that our Cadets on parade today exemplify who are a credit to themselves, their parents and the wider community.

The Cadets are not for everyone, I accept, and as the consequences of pandemic subside I hope we might look again at the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme as one of many approaches to developing the child here in TCI. Our own children participated in the scheme, gained much from it, and myself and Mandy stand ready to support and will be looking to re-energise this program during the coming year.

As a former President of the World Wildlife Fund, the late Duke was also personally engaged in wildlife and environmental issues; a theme that runs throughout the entire Royal family. On the occasion of Her Majesty's Birthday, her son, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has sent out a message to the world drawing attention to the environmental tragedy that is impacting us all.

The protection of our environment against climate change and preserving our natural assets for many generations to come is increasingly seen as a global priority. Climate change is reaching a tipping point. Humanity's relationship with our beautiful planet is incredibly precious but endangered. Whilst we retain hope for the future, a degree or two more and we risk losing both our coral reefs and our beaches.

The world organises around a Climate Change Summit this year hosted in the UK. It's known as COP26. The Overseas Territories have between them extraordinary environments hosting amazing bio-diversity from the Antarctic

to the Indian Ocean, to the Mediterranean and the Pacific, and of course closer to home here in the Caribbean.

We in TCI steward, on behalf of the planet, the third largest barrier reef in the world. An extraordinary responsibility and while we are 'Beautiful by Nature' we know all too well, that as the seas warm, and as we are at the start of the Hurricane season, we are at the mercy of nature who does not always show us here her 'beauty' but also her extraordinary destructive power.

It is entirely in our interests, in TCI, to stop sea temperatures rising, and sea levels rising, and so let us all play our part – small as it may seem – and protect our marine life; our crystal clear waters; our beautiful beaches; and the mangrove and vegetation that surrounds us through local initiatives to reduce waste and fossil fuel energy consumption in our beautiful by nature islands.

Forty Six Thousand people cannot change the world alone, because it will take a global effort, but as a small island state who bears the full brunt of nature's capriciousness we should provide leadership to the world in all that we do.

I end on welcoming, for the first time, the newest addition of those who serve TCI to this parade ground, if not this parade. You will see members of the Turks and Caicos Islands Regiment stood near to myself and the Premier today. This small contingent, who form the regular nucleus of our Regiment, will be joined next month by our own newly recruited reserve Marines who will undergo basic training run right here in TCI by the British Army, in July.

Next year, the TCI Regiment, seasoned through their first Hurricane Season and having been operational in support of our Maritime Police, and twinned with one of the British Army's most prestigious Regiment's 'The Rifles', will be stood on this Parade Ground joining you – the remarkable people of TCI who put yourselves before others in service of our Territory. That will be a remarkable Parade and, God willing, I intend to be here, to take that salute.

So may God Bless Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. May God bless the Turks and Caicos Islands. May God bless all those before me and everything you represent in terms of serving our people, following the example that Her Majesty herself has set over an extraordinary life. 'Long May She Reign Over us. God Save the Queen'.

[Calling for a nationwide ceasefire in Yemen](#)

Thank you, Mr President. May I start by thanking our briefers for their

briefings today, but in particular for their work over the last few years and months. I'd also like to thank Mark as outgoing Undersecretary-General and look forward to continuing our cooperation with Martin in his new role.

Martin, your recent visit to Sana'a is welcome, but it also sadly underlines that the Houthis waited until the last days of your tenure to invite you back to Sana'a for the first time in over a year. I think it is clear that the Houthis do not have the courage to embrace a ceasefire. Instead, last week, they again targeted civilian sites in Marib indiscriminately with ballistic missiles, killing 10 civilians, and on Sunday, a Houthi attack hit a Saudi school. I strongly condemn these acts, as well as the Houthis' continued crackdown on the rights and freedoms of Yemeni women as well as religious and ethnic minorities.

I welcome your briefing today, Najiba, and hear clearly your call for a ceasefire, backed up by the resources and support for women-led organisations for an inclusive path to peace. And I, and I'm sure others, will encourage the new Special Envoy to consider how they may work closely with you to make the process more inclusive and ensure that the positions of women, youth, and minorities are genuinely represented going forward.

Mark, I'd like to thank you, too, for your tireless efforts. In the past years, as conflict has ravished Yemen, both your and the UN's efforts have helped support those most in need and save lives. But the world's worst man-made humanitarian crisis continues. Severe fuel shortages continue to blight Yemen, and mean that a third of fuel is imported into Hodeidah of what would normally be expected. The UK calls on the parties to find a permanent solution to this issue. The Houthis must ensure that fuel imports are distributed transparently, and the Government of Yemen must ensure a reliable and sustained flow of fuel into northern Yemen.

Earlier this month, the Council met to discuss the perilous situation of the SAFER oil tanker – a year since the Security Council first held a dedicated discussion of SAFER. Yet the tanker is no closer to being made safe. This issue is in the gift of the Houthis to deliver. We have heard that a worst-case scenario could put 670,000 lives at risk and take decades to clear. Rather than hiding behind endless bureaucratic hurdles, the Houthis must engage substantively to avoid a potential disaster.

Finally, Mr President, as Martin said, Yemeni people are paying a high price of lost and missed opportunities over six years. As we've heard, a nationwide ceasefire would be a first, critical step on the path to a future of stability, rights and freedom.

Thank you.

19 Argentines received Chevening scholarships in 2020

Press release

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the British Ambassador hosted a virtual event for those who were awarded Chevening Scholarships.



Every year, a number of Chevening Scholarships are awarded to students from Argentina with outstanding academic performance and leadership qualities, allowing them full funding to undertake postgraduate studies in universities in the UK.

Ambassador [Mark Kent](#) bid farewell to the group through a virtual meeting, in the aims of wishing a safe and successful trip to the scholarship holders. A face-to-face event is usually hosted, but due to COVID-19, the British Ambassador could not welcome the group of young Argentines at his Residence.

Applications to study during 2022-2023 will open from 3 August to 2 November 2021. Start planning your application at <http://www.chevening.org/apply>.

The 2020-2021 beneficiaries are:

1. María Florencia Asef – LSE – Finance and Economics
2. Ezequiel Darío Badgen – ICL – Physics
3. Paulo Barbieri Kennedy – LSE – Public Policy
4. María Barraco – Queen Mary – Human Rights Law
5. Jonatan Beun – University of Warwick – Behavioural and Economic Science
6. María Florencia Buccari – University of Nottingham – Economic Development and Policy Analysis
7. Juan Ignacio Carranza Ferreyra – UCL – International Public Policy
8. Gabriela Commatteo – King’s College – Master of Laws
9. Bruno Ezequiel – LSE – International Social and Public Policy
10. Mateo García Fuentes – Queen Mary – Commercial and Corporate Law
11. Ricardo Horacio Gardey – University of Manchester – International Development: Development Management
12. María Eugenia Lafforgue – University of Sussex – Governance, Development

and Public Policy

13. Pablo Mayo – University of Westminster – Energy and Environmental Change
14. Tatiana Podliszewski Rubin – LSE – International Social and Public Policy
15. María Elena Provensal – LSE – Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship
16. Ailén Daniela Remelsky – Goldsmiths – Human Rights, Culture and Social Justice
17. Martín Robles – UCL – Public Administration and Management
18. Javier Val – University of Aberdeen – Energy Management
19. Martín Verrier – King’s College – Intelligence and International Security

Published 15 June 2021