

# Huge expansion of tutoring in next step of education recovery

Children and young people across England will be offered up to 100 million hours of free tuition to help them catch up on learning lost during the pandemic.

As part of the next step in the government's plans to boost education recovery, a total of £1.4 billion is being invested, including £1 billion to support up to 6 million, 15-hour tutoring courses for disadvantaged school children, as well as an expansion of the 16-19 tuition fund, targeting key subjects such as maths and English.

£400 million will help give early years practitioners and 500,000 school teachers across the country training and support, and schools and colleges will be funded to give some year 13 students the option to repeat their final year.

It builds on the £1.7 billion already announced to help children catch up on what they missed during the pandemic, which includes summer schools and mental health support, bringing total investment to over £3 billion.

The government has committed to an ambitious, long-term education recovery plan and the next stage will include a review of time spent in school and college and the impact this could have on helping children and young people to catch up. The findings of the review will be set out later in the year to inform the spending review.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said:

Young people have sacrificed so much over the last year and as we build back from the pandemic, we must make sure that no child is left behind.

This next step in our long-term catch up plan should give parents confidence that we will do everything we can to support children who have fallen behind and that every child will have the skills and knowledge they need to fulfil their potential.

One course of high-quality tutoring has been proven to boost attainment by three to five months, so tutoring will be vital for young people in recovering the teaching hours lost in the last year.

The government expects the £1 billion investment to transform the availability and approach to tuition in every school and college over the next three years, making sure when teachers identify a disadvantaged child in need of support as a result of the pandemic, extra support is available.

£153 million will provide the opportunity for evidence-based professional development for early years practitioners, including through new programmes focusing on key areas such as speech and language development for the youngest children.

£253 million will expand existing teacher training and development to give 500,000 school teachers the opportunity to access world-leading training appropriate for whatever point they are at in their career, from new teachers to headteachers. This represents a significant overhaul of teacher training in this country, and will ensure children are supported by world-leading teachers.

Schools or colleges will be able to offer students in year 13 the option to repeat the year if they have been particularly badly affected by the pandemic. Schools and colleges will be funded by the Department to help accommodate the additional student numbers.

Education Secretary Gavin Williamson said:

This is the third major package of catch-up funding in twelve months and demonstrates that we are taking a long-term, evidence-based approach to help children of all ages.

I am incredibly proud it recognises the efforts and dedication of our teachers who are at the forefront of children's recovery – making sure every teacher has the opportunity to access world-leading training, giving them the skills and tools to help every child they work with to fulfil their potential.

The package will not just go a long way to boost children's learning in the wake of the disruption caused by the pandemic but also help bring back down the attainment gap that we've been working to eradicate.

Education Recovery Commissioner Sir Kevan Collins said:

The pandemic has caused a huge disruption to the lives of England's children.

Supporting every child to get back on track will require a sustained and comprehensive programme of support.

The investments in teaching quality and tutoring announced today offer evidence-based support to a significant number of our children and teachers. But more will be needed to meet the scale of the challenge.

All ages from two to 19 are comprehensively covered by the offers of radically expanded tuition, specialist training for early years and for

school teachers at every stage of their career, from new teachers to head teachers, as well as the option for some year 13 students to repeat their final year.

Schools will now be able to provide additional tutoring support using locally employed tutors. This will build on the successful National Tutoring Programme, galvanising tuition providers to deliver the one-to-one and small group tutoring for pupils right across the country, to the highest standards and greatest possible impact.

Randstad will be the new supplier of the NTP from September 2021. They will be supported by Teach First to ensure the programme is successfully set up for effective delivery and continuous improvement in academic year 21/22.

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## [Winners of the 2021 Queen's Award for Voluntary Service announced](#)

Charities, social enterprises and voluntary groups from England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland have received the prestigious award for delivering exceptional service within their communities over the past year and beyond.

The winners have carried out critical work to enhance the lives of others, from reaching people suffering with dementia through music and song in Gloucestershire, to providing support and friendship to refugees and asylum seekers in Merseyside.

Many of those honoured have adapted their services to respond to the coronavirus outbreak as the voluntary sector continues to play a vital role in the national recovery. This has been recognised through a special designation given to 164 of the group for providing impactful support during the initial lockdown.

Coinciding with Volunteers' Week, the Queen's Award recognises that volunteers have been vital throughout the coronavirus pandemic, and will continue to be as the country emerges from lockdown.

Minister for Civil Society and Youth, Baroness Barran, will be marking Volunteers' Week with a series of visits to some of the exceptional organisations carrying out critical work.

Volunteers' Week is an annual celebration for the UK to recognise those who have dedicated their time to support their local community, both through the pandemic, and over many years.

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service Independent Committee Chair Sir

Martyn Lewis, said:

There is no finer example of democracy in action than people getting together at a local level to tackle a problem or issue at the heart of their community. This year's magnificent award winning groups touch virtually every area of need across our society.

They also highlight the growing and key role which volunteers are playing in times of rapid change and unprecedented challenges. Whether driven by a neighbourly passion to help others or to achieve that well recognised "high" of personal satisfaction, volunteering taps into a rich spirit of generosity, ingenuity and kindness. The Queen's Award's judges are proud to honour the achievements of those who help to make our country great.

Minister for Civil Society, Baroness Barran said:

I'm extremely grateful for the work being carried out by volunteers across the country, and this prestigious award is extremely well deserved. I'd like to congratulate all of the winners, and thank them for the dedication to their communities.

In these challenging times, charities, social enterprises and their volunteers have been the backbone of local communities.

Recent research has shown that 99% of people who have volunteered report positive personal benefits, including a sense of purpose, achievement and feeling as though they are making a difference. I hope today's award inspires people and I encourage everyone to consider how they could volunteer in some way.

This year's recipients demonstrate the diversity of organisations supporting our communities and also their ability to innovate – including:

- Second Wave Centre for Youth Arts in London provides a meeting place for young people, diverting them from criminal activity through theatre and writing projects. During the pandemic, they have established a series of small, socially-distanced support groups.
- Fellrunner Village Bus in Cumbria is a volunteer minibus service for rural communities across Eden District. They provide much-needed access to shops and services for the elderly and isolated. During the pandemic, they provided shopping and collected prescriptions for shielding villagers, and also delivered food parcels.
- Westhill and District Men's Shed in Aberdeenshire bring men together for friendship, to reduce loneliness and improve mental health. During the

pandemic, they used a 3D printer to produce 2700 face shields for care staff.

- A Safe Space to be Me in County Antrim provides mental health support in a rural community. During the pandemic, they delivered 48 laptops for home schooling and provided practical support and financial aid.
- Barmouth Community First in Gwynedd provides a fast response to accidents and emergencies in a rural area until an ambulance arrives. During the pandemic, they have delivered prescriptions to shielded members of the community, and collect essential medical supplies to assist the local pharmacy.

Nominations for the 2022 awards close on 15 September 2021.

ENDS

## Notes for editors

- Find your local recipient on our [map](#).
- Lord Lieutenants represent the monarch in each of the UK's ceremonial counties.
- This year there were 241 recipients of The Queen's Award Voluntary Service from across the UK. Of these 164 are also receiving a special designation for providing impactful support during the pandemic. More information on the recipients and the Award can be found at [www.qavs.dcms.gov.uk](http://www.qavs.dcms.gov.uk)
- Any group of three or more people that has participated in voluntary work for more than three years can be nominated for the award. Full details on how to nominate are available at [www.qavs.dcms.gov.uk](http://www.qavs.dcms.gov.uk)

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## Governor's Remarks: Monday 31st May 2021

Good morning Turks and Caicos.

On this, our national day, named after our national hero, the late Honourable

James Alexander George Smith McCartney, we are being asked by the organisers to talk to one of the most important challenges facing the Turks and Caicos Islands today, a challenge that impacts directly on our future. I'm grateful to them for choosing the theme: 'rebuilding the dream; a unified nation' because it gives us all much to think about.

Beyond celebrating our national day and our national hero, nations have other symbols: a national flag would be an example and a national anthem – and in TCI's case also a much loved national song. So while I will start with the flag, and then go on to reflect on our national hero, I will end with the words of Dr Reverend Howell, because just nineteen words in our national song are helpful in answering the challenge we have been set.

Today a symbol of our Territory, the Turks and Caicos Islands Flag, is flying proudly not only here but also at the main entrance to the Westminster Parliament. Even as I say that, I recognise the awkwardness, and I have thought hard about it, that a British Governor is invited to talk on a day named after your national hero whose political agenda in the 1970's was to actively set the conditions to break the link with the UK.

As a Governor you have been beyond courteous, and polite, and you have made me feel very welcome here and having noted the connection between the UK and TCI, I now stand before you – I hope – not just as a 'British Governor' but as your Governor, on our national day, but with the humility of someone who knows they are an outsider, someone who will never be a Turks and Caicos Islander, somebody who can never understand your experience in the way you can and who for some people will always represent something at best they feel uncomfortable about.

It's worth me recognising that – and saying that – yet I must also say to you that I have never felt so committed to doing the very best I can, for any group of people, as I have felt towards you since my arrival. You are a remarkable people – you inspire loyalty and TCI is a bewitching place that it is easy to fall in love with; and I have. That sentiment you inspire, which I know is not unique to me, is worth remembering when we talk of building unity. So what I now go on to say, I say not with awkwardness but with affection.

Others have eulogised the Honourable JAGS McCartney far better than I can because they knew the man – and I didn't. Instead permit me to look at the leadership qualities he demonstrated and lessons we might learn linked to the challenge we have been set. As I do that, I'll focus on three words: 'dream', 'unity' and 'nation' and perhaps ask some difficult questions.

### **The need for urgency. Stop dreaming, start acting:**

The first big lesson is that our only national hero had moved way past 'dreaming' – he was explicit on this – to a very clear idea of what a unified nation would look like. He wasn't dreaming – he had vision and through that mission; and there's the difference. A dream is aspirational, whereas a mission gives you an achievable aiming point, a point on the horizon to march towards. Even as circumstances change you can keep a steady bead on your

destination and crucially you've told others where it is, so they don't only follow you, but also play their own part in leadership.

I don't think JAGS would therefore want us to spend too much time dreaming. In his 1979 Unity speech he was explicit: "This is not an idle dream' – he said – 'it is not impossible, I see it, I feel it, it is real, indeed I am living in it already."

I do think JAGS would, as a practical politician, recognise the challenge of 'unity' in TCI now goes well beyond the complexity of 1979 when he captured the issue of disunity in his speech as one of "separation by distance and water".

Today that disunity caused by physical separation may still be the case, others can comment although I slightly rejoice in the diversity of the Islands, but there is also a far more pressing and evident separation, a separation of cultures and ethnicities not between Islands but within Islands, and within TCI, and on present projections TCI's population will reach 70,000 by 2040 – a growth of 10 times since JAGS day. All that now seriously complicates the issue.

There is though a far more optimistic reason why there is urgency and that is where we should focus. We are going to come out of this pandemic stronger than we went into it and with momentum. I am absolutely of the view, and I believe I share this with many including the present Premier and his Cabinet and the Leader of the Opposition, that the next decade is 'ours'. There is absolutely no reason why we don't arrive at 2030 as one of the most prosperous, well governed and most admired Islands in the region with a global brand that screams glamour, talent, and youthful optimism but crucially also offers rock solid stability. Unity is critical to that last word, 'stability'. As we arrive at that future what we now don't need is internal division which undermines internal stability.

### **Unity is not an end in itself:**

Linked to that last optimistic point, if we believe there is a need to unite, it seems to me that the most important lesson JAGS might teach us, in terms of today's theme, is that 'unity' is not an end in itself: 'unity' is for a purpose, and until that purpose is defined, the route to 'unity' will remain elusive.

The second lesson JAGS can teach us is that he had gone well past 'vision' to 'purpose'. He had 'purpose' for the unity he sought. He could explain to others – in simple and clear language – why he wanted to reach the aiming point on the horizon, with them alongside him. His purpose, as others have said, was self-determination.

And it would seem to me he went further still. The third lesson is that it wasn't 'just' about building the consensus he needed, that for him self-determination was the right course of action, no, it was not only the action but also the consequences of that action that he was building resilience for. It was a pragmatic realisation that for an independent small Island state to

prosper, in an extremely competitive world, it could only succeed if its population was united rather than divided; otherwise it would be at the mercy of much larger outside International and commercial interests.

It is for you, the people of TCI, to set the purpose. Given this is the Honourable JAGS McCartney day many minds in the audience will, I accept, view independence as the long-term purpose for unity as JAGS did. Given the UK unequivocally supports the right to self-determination, the UK and I remain neutral on this point wishing to simply support any future decision the people of TCI make on this most important issue. But it would seem to me that a crucial first purpose for all – and certainly for those who hold that vision – has to be to deliver the type of settled society these Islands need, to truly prosper in the way I described earlier.

### **What type of nation do we need?**

Enough for the moment on 'unity', let's now turn to that difficult word 'nation'. Those listening may have given it more thought than I, but I do not know, in what terms that word is being used here today.

The idea of 'nation' is complicated. We get the word 'nation' from the same Latin root as we get the word 'nativity'. It talks to birth, and through that to someone's place of birth. Traditionally the word nation talks to a distinct group, a group bounded together by a common language, a common ethnicity, a common history, a common story. Before the people of the world started to move in an ever increasing way, the place where you were born generally sat very comfortably within this definition.

There is therefore an elegance, because of the definition I describe, drawing the boundaries of 'the nation' roughly as JAGS would have recognised it in 1979; tightly around those who are Turks and Caicos Islanders. Of course that isn't a strictly homogeneous group, some TCI Islanders have not lived here for generations, they might for example have gained that status through marriage – indeed JAGS father, a Jamaican, was just such a person. Whatever, while that traditional definition might indeed unify a 'nation' within TCI, it would not unify the Territory of TCI as a 'nation'. That's important to recognise. The question to ask is, does that matter? Some would say it doesn't.

It might be helpful to just mention where the word 'nation' is not used. We don't use the word 'nation' to describe the United States of America – yet those who live there have a very clear idea of who they are and they describe themselves proudly as Americans. Americans have traditionally unified not as a homogenous ethnic group but around big ideas, indeed it's a country founded on an idea. They built 'unity' around purpose.

There are though 'nations' that reside in America. The Native American nation being the best known but there was a fascinating book published last year describing the 'eleven nations of America'. The thesis may or may not be right but having visited every State in the 'Lower 48' I can attest that there is not one homogeneous culture that embraces all of America.



Likewise, the United Kingdom isn't a 'Nation', it is a 'Nation State'. The UK is made up of four 'nations': England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. It's why first generation immigrants to the United Kingdom often (but not always) feel more comfortable describing themselves as British rather than, say, English. I raise all this to say that both the US and UK are successful countries that can accommodate different 'nations', although not always comfortably – and at present with some difficulty.

The wider lesson here is if the idea of a 'nation' is built around a very tightly defined ethnicity, story and culture, then we can expect, like in the US and UK, other groups to bond around their culture, and their ethnicity, and for micro-nations to exist within TCI. If they are not allowed inside the tent that we call 'the TCI nation', they will build their own 'tent'. Is that what we want for our long term future?

Perhaps the definition in TCI of who belongs to our 'nation' stretches further than the traditional definition to include those with other legal status that demonstrate they have a long term personal investment in these Islands future. This is then a 'nation' that is intentionally built to look to its future, as well as celebrate its past'. It's for you to decide – not me – how many metaphorical colours you want in your version of a more rainbow nation, if you want it at all – and I know some do not. But whatever you decide, a nation doesn't just 'happen' it requires serious intentional work and powerful engaged leadership if we are to 'nation-build'.

### **The crux of the challenge:**

Which brings me back to my earlier point. It seems to me the only route through this conundrum, and again I think this is where learning from JAGS leads us, is the overwhelming requirement to have a 'purpose' for the unity you seek, and then that purpose leading you to the decision about what type of nation you need to build.

I stand before you therefore without the answers to these incredibly tough questions – not least because they are not mine to answer, they are yours. That's where great national leaders such as JAGS come in – that's where those who call TCI home have to become engaged. I do know, as I think JAGS knew, that these are foundational questions that must be answered before real progress can be made. Before we can settle on the 'nation' we want, we need to answer the question 'why' we want it. I have very little doubt that the unity to generate it will then come, but we must be honest that different levels of inclusion in 'our nation' will march us towards different long term outcomes and crucially different levels of stability and security.

This is a challenge not just for the present leaders – which I define in the broadest sense – of the Turks and Caicos Islands – although I do believe, through my many conversations with him, that we are fortunate that the Premier is a man of vision and has great ambition, sustainable ambition, for these Islands.

But it is also a conversation that needs to be had by the many, not just the few. Indeed those under 40 have a greater stake in this debate than any – it

is their future we are talking about – and it is inspirational that JAGS achieved all that he did in his 30's.

Bearing in mind this conversation in the 1970's started within a social club, dominated by youth, much now rests on the success, clarity and inclusivity of this conversation that can be conducted anywhere and everywhere. I hope the challenge we have been set today is, for instance, not just taken up in the bar-room but also the classroom.

### **The answer may be in the national song:**

Crucially, what I have said today is hardly a new idea: JAGS got it, as did the Reverend Howell, who couldn't really have put it any better in terms of the lyrics he wrote to our national song, that all our children learn, and which Tess proudly led us in today:

"Our people forged and blend with multiplicity of race and kind and creed and tongue, united by our goals".

'United by our goals'. So goes our national song...

I'll therefore leave the last word to Reverend Howell – and the children who sing with such passion – the answer to the challenge the organisers set us, is that there is no need to rebuild a 'dream', the dream, and the answer to the dream, are already captured in those nineteen words of our national song: we – by which I mean the people of TCI – now just need to define the goals and a people, the amazing people of these Islands will be forged around it.

And so may God Bless the Turks and Caicos Islands, may God bless all who celebrate our national day near or far, and may God bless not the dream – but the realisable ambition – of a unified Turks and Caicos Islands nation.

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## **Industrial action at DVLA: Wednesday 2 June to Saturday 5 June**

News story

The scheduled dates for industrial action at DVLA and how it may affect our services.



Industrial action is scheduled to take place between Wednesday 2 June and Saturday 5 June that will directly affect DVLA's contact centre service. During this time, we advise you not to call our contact centre.

Our online services are available and are the quickest and easiest way to deal with us. For information and to access our services, go to [www.gov.uk/browse/driving](http://www.gov.uk/browse/driving).

Published 1 June 2021

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## [UK Ministers lead NATO charge on innovation](#)

Speaking ahead of the first gathering of NATO leaders since London 2019 taking place in Brussels later this month, Mr Wallace and Mr Raab met virtually with Allied counterparts to discuss how the Alliance will continue to adapt to the era of systemic competition – and how the UK will be a steadfast partner in leading that process.

The recently published Integrated Review into security, defence, development and foreign policy, as well as the accompanying Defence Command Paper, placed NATO at the heart of the UK's vision for its role in the world over the next decade.

### **Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said:**

Our recently-published Defence Command Paper placed working with international partners and committing to modernisation as fundamental principles for our Armed Forces. I am pleased that these are principles that NATO shares.

The UK will continue to be one of NATO's most active Allies. As the

Alliance strengthens its approach to deterring the threats of today, looks ahead to the future, and grows its capabilities in new domains, our Armed Forces will be at the forefront of the collective response to shared threats.

**Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said:**

The UK is supporting and reinforcing NATO as we rise to the challenge of tackling hostile states like Russia, whilst also adapting to face new threats – from dangerous cyber attacks to poisonous misinformation, put about by those who want to undermine our way of life.

**Cyber defence**

As part of that adaptation process, the Defence Secretary agreed with counterparts a new NATO Cyber Defence Policy which recognises the need for Allies to have an active and shared approach to cyber defence, from improved resilience to offensive cyber capabilities, as part of our collective defence. This closely aligns NATO to the approach detailed in the UK's Integrated Review, and will equip the Alliance to respond to activities below the threshold of traditional conflict.

**Conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV)**

Defence ministers also approved an Allied policy on Preventing and Responding to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV).

The UK, in line with its objective to be a force for good in the world, has driven the ambition of this policy which demonstrates that NATO is ready to play its role in effectively preventing and responding to these brutal crimes, today and in the future. The policy will ensure that NATO personnel are trained on how to treat victims and survivors, to help ensure they get the support they need, and when necessary to protect them and provide emergency assistance.

**Hostile states**

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab called on NATO allies to take action and respond to Russia's malign activity, including using political tools at their disposal.

He set out Russia's unacceptable behaviour including the recent military build-up in Ukraine, GRU officers being behind the deaths of two civilians and an explosion in the Czech town of Vrbetice, and the limiting of staff at the US and Czech Embassies – defying the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations

The Foreign Secretary also called for a strong, united response from Allies to the forced landing of a Ryanair flight in Minsk, by the Lukashenko regime

in Belarus.