



Rt Hon Nicky Morgan MP  
Secretary of State for Education  
House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA

24 May, 2016

Dear Minister,

### **School Libraries in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

The School Library Association wants to highlight to you that the Libraries APPG report 'The Beating Heart of the School' (2014)<sup>1</sup> recommended that all children should have access to a school library. The Chair, Lord Tope, stated 'If every school has a well-resourced, properly staffed, fit for purpose library that is a key part of their strategies it will make a huge contribution to young people's educational attainment'. That same report went on to recommend that Ofsted includes libraries in their inspections and the Department for Education has a lead staff-member for school libraries. Two years on, and despite regular public comment and pressure, an ATL survey (2016)<sup>2</sup> shows more and more school libraries are closing.

The SLA urges the Minister not to let the valuable contribution that school libraries can make to the education of our children be cast aside when there is have a huge amount of literature showing just how much impact they can have when properly staffed and resourced.<sup>3</sup>

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tricia Adams', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tricia Adams  
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<sup>1</sup>Libraries All Party Parliamentary Group The Beating Heart of the School: Improving educational attainment through school libraries and librarians. CILIP 2014  
<http://www.cilip.org.uk/cilip/advocacy-campaigns-awards/advocacy-campaigns/libraries-all-party-parliamentary-group/beating> accessed 19/5/16

<sup>2</sup>ATL 2016 <http://www.atl.org.uk/media-office/2016/many-school-libraries-are-too-small-and-some-are-being-turned-into-classrooms.asp> accessed 19/5/16

<sup>3</sup>Robert Gordon University Impact of School Libraries on Learning Prof. D Williams et al.  
[http://scottishlibraries.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/SLIC\\_RGU\\_Impact\\_of\\_School\\_Libraries\\_2013\\_Small.pdf](http://scottishlibraries.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/SLIC_RGU_Impact_of_School_Libraries_2013_Small.pdf) accessed