(YOUR NAME here)

(YOUR ADDRESS here)  
(YOUR EMAIL here)

**Email to:** [(Put](mailto:Sec-OF-STATE.PS@education.gov.uk) your MP’s constituency office email here, you can find this on: <https://members.parliament.uk/members/Commons>)

**The Rt Hon** (MP NAME here) **MP**

**House of Commons,**

**London**

**SW1A 0AA**

(DATE here)

Dear (MP NAME here),

I live in (CONSTITUENCY WHERE YOU LIVE here) and you are my Member of Parliament. I am writing to request that you take action to support the children and young people of (CONSTITUENCY WHERE YOU LIVE here) and their right to a high-quality, broad and balanced education.

As a member of the National Society for Education in Art and Design (NSEAD), I am extremely concerned about the impact of Government policies on education, and the teaching of art, craft and design in particular. I would like to draw your attention to the recent report from the All-Party Parliamentary Group for art, craft and design in education, ‘Art Now’ ([www.nsead.org/community-activism/policy-and-research/all-party-parliamentary-group/artnow-inquiry-2023/](https://www.nsead.org/community-activism/policy-and-research/all-party-parliamentary-group/artnow-inquiry-2023/)) which investigated the impact of Government policy on art and design education. It makes five recommendations to address the recruitment and retention crisis and support for teacher’s professional development. Without well-trained, motivated teachers our children cannot get the quality of education they need if they are to thrive and achieve their full potential.

Are you aware that entries for all GCSE arts subjects have dropped by a shocking 40% since 2008? In 2017 art and design GCSEs entries dropped to their lowest level this century – they fell in 2022 to pre-pandemic level and are set to fall again this year. Do you know that it is children who are most disadvantaged that are most affected, and denied access to the wide range of creative industry careers and opportunities?

Do you know that recruitment of art and design specialist teachers is at an all-time low? From 2010/11 to 2022/23 the number of teacher vacancies for art and design have risen to the highest level recorded in this twelve-year period. And, we are not training enough art and design teachers, with recruitment currently set to reach 58% of its target. But, for those subjects that have had a bursary – there was a 13% increase in numbers. Bursaries are clearly an effective driver for recruitment, but art and design teachers must fund their own training entirely.

Are you aware that the amount of time for art and design in state schools has fallen drastically since the introduction of the Ebacc and Progress 8 accountability measures?

Our subject and those who teach it are desperately underfunded and undervalued, and it is our children who are being let down. Will you raise this important issue in Parliament and call on this government to heed the recommendations of the All-Party group, to address this crisis in arts education before it is too late?

Yours sincerely,

(YOUR NAME)

