

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

9th July 2018

New Constituent,

RE: SCHOOL HOLIDAY FOOD CAMPAIGN.

Thank you for contacting me recently about school holiday hunger; your comments upon which I read with great interest.

No child should have to go hungry and it is important to ensure every child, regardless of their background, has the very best start in life.

I welcome that the Department for Education will be conducting research into how best to ensure that more children from disadvantaged families benefit from healthy meals, and enrichment activities during the school holidays. This will include running targeted pilot programmes and engaging with interested organisations, and will enable ministers to assess the impact of Government intervention.

More broadly, the Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission recommended a number of measures to help children. Child poverty is best addressed by helping the parents find good jobs. That is why the Government continues to roll out the Universal Credit system, which provides personalised financial and other support for parents, while helping them to find and stay in work. Other measures to help parents include the doubling of free childcare hours, and the raised personal allowance which has lifted millions of the lowest paid out of income tax altogether. Since its introduction, the National Living Wage has delivered a £2,000 pay rise for the lowest paid.

I am proud of the measures to ensure children are offered nutritious meals to help improve their health and development. Universal infant free school meals are an excellent way of ensuring children receive a nutritious meal during the day. This not only boosts educational achievement, especially for children from disadvantaged backgrounds, but also saves hard-working families hundreds of pounds a year. Many children from disadvantaged backgrounds are entitled to receive free school meals throughout their full time education.

I also welcome the announcement that £10 million a year of the Soft Drinks Industry Levy will be used to expand breakfast club provisions in up to 1,600 schools and encourage healthy eating among children. Breakfast clubs are hugely valuable, and I am pleased to have supported their provision locally through my work in Parliament.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

With best wishes,

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Great to visit Russell Hubbard School's national award winning breakfast club only a few weeks ago.

LISTENING TO YOU - CAMPAIGNING FOR YOU

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