# A template letter for writing to/emailing your local MP

[Your address]

[MP’s name

Address 1

Address 2

Address 3

Postcode]

[Date]

Dear [MP’s name],

**Protect and Promote Design and Technology**

**The future of Design and Technology education in our schools**

I know you are aware of the importance of design, manufacturing, technology and engineering businesses in your constituency and will have taken the opportunity to visit some of them. On your visits, you will have seen young people learning essential skills and contributing to the future success of British industry. Many of these young people built the foundation of those skills through the study of design and technology while in full-time education. Businesses are vocal about how essential those skills are for their future employees, now more than ever.

The success of the subject is now under threat, and I urgently seek your support.

I am writing to you in my capacity as a [Please delete as appropriate: headteacher / design and technology teacher / governor / employer / ….] to make you aware of my serious concern about the future of design and technology education in schools.

England and Wales were the first countries in the world to make design and technology (D&T) a compulsory subject for all pupils from ages 5 to 16. D&T education in the UK is still considered to be world-leading, and other counties look to emulate our success.

However, the future of D&T is under severe threat in many schools. There is a critical teacher shortage, GCSE numbers are declining, and the Department for Education is clear that it is prioritising other subjects, all of which are contributing to the marginalisation of the subject in many schools. We have recently been informed of the DfE’s decision to withdraw the funding of bursaries for trainee design and technology teachers from 2021, whilst retaining bursaries for other subjects, some of which are not currently struggling to recruit specialist teachers

To raise awareness of these issues, and to suggest solutions, the Design and Technology Association has launched a campaign, ‘**Protect and Promote Design and Technology**’ which promotes the vital contribution that D&T makes to the education of all young people and, ultimately, to the UK’s economy. Maintaining the quantity and quality of new design and technology teachers is essential to the subject’s future and to the broader positive impact that this can play to the UK’s growth.

The withdrawal of the training bursary means that headteachers nationally will experience increased challenges when looking to recruit to the subject; especially at leadership level. This will inevitably result in non-specialists leading the subject or in decisions reluctantly being made by headteachers and governing bodies to drop the subject from the school’s curriculum offer altogether. The subject is highly valued by businesses, especially in design, manufacturing, and engineering industries, as it provides the right combination of knowledge, skills and personal attributes that business requires of its young recruits.

I would very much like [delete and/or combine the following as appropriate:

to meet you to discuss this matter further

to invite you to join and support the campaign by visiting www.data.org.uk/campaign

to invite you to visit my school, to see the benefits of D&T education and to discuss these issues further

you to raise these issues with the Secretary of State].

You can contact me at [email] or [telephone]. Thank you for your anticipated assistance with this matter. I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

[Your name]

[Your position}