

John McDonnell MP

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Dear Parent,

Schools Investment Programme

I am writing to you because in the coming years you will be making the choice of what secondary school to send your child to. In 2008 the Government announced that Hillingdon secondary and special schools would be included in a £150 million programme of modernising and improving our schools and making their facilities fit for the 21st century.

As a local parent, I was delighted with this commitment from the Government and a year ago the council sent out to local schools a brochure setting out their plans on how this money would be invested in improving our schools. The Council said at that time that "We will experience exciting new changes in Hillingdon schools, making them suitable for 21st century learning." The Council told us that the plan was to start in the south of the borough and include the north of the borough as soon as possible.

The Council should have agreed its plans with the Government by now so that we can secure the funds and start the work. However, last week the leader of the council informed secondary head teachers that the Council is delaying agreeing the improvement programme plans until after the election and is laying off the bulk of the staff working on the programme. In addition the national Conservative education spokesperson has said that if the local programme has not reached "financial close" by the election "then it won't be guaranteed."

In effect this means that the £150 million programme for our schools is now at serious risk. A number of the head teachers at the meeting who listened to the leader of the council believe that the Council will now not go ahead with the investment programme. I am extremely dismayed at this decision by the Council. Our schools desperately need this investment and I am worried that the education of our children is being put at risk.

I am writing to ask for your help to persuade the leader of the Council to change his mind on this issue. To help you can sign our petition, contact your local councillor, write to the leader of the council at the Civic Centre, Uxbridge, calling on the Council to sign up now to the schools improvement programme.

To show how strongly many of us feel on this matter I am also organising a demonstration in Hayes town centre at 10.30 am on Saturday 3rd April. Please come and join us to show you support for our schools.

Yours sincerely

John McDonnell MP
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