Dear Headteacher

Survey
I am writing on behalf of the Education and Skills Committee to invite you to complete the attached survey in relation to the senior phase of the Curriculum for Excellence. The Committee has been taking evidence recently that has included a focus on the senior phase, and this has included looking at the availability of subject choices.

While the Committee has heard various views about the Senior Phase, a survey of all secondary schools would be invaluable in helping us to understand what is actually happening across Scotland. So, the Committee has today written to all secondary schools asking for a survey to be completed. The deadline is 13th February.

The survey is short and hopefully straightforward to complete but I know the timescale is also relatively short, so please do let the Clerk to the Committee know if there will be an issue completing the survey by the deadline. The Committee does not want to divert your school from its core activities by issuing this deadline (email Roz Thomson at es.committee@parliament.scot).

Committee’s work programme
I would also like to take this opportunity to highlight to you the interest the Committee has in establishing contact with schools wherever possible to ensure our work is as informed as it can be. I would like to invite you to consider how your teachers, support staff and pupils could become actively involved in the work of the Committee.
In terms of keeping informed, the Committee has a mailing list that you are welcome to join as a first step and this will highlight any active consultations the Committee is running. Again please email es.committee@parliament.scot to join or we are on Twitter @SP_EduSkills

In addition, to give an idea of the kinds of work we undertake of relevance to you, at present the Committee is inviting 100 word statements, twitter or facebook posts or short videos around What should personal and social education be about? We will hold an evidence session on this in the coming weeks and knowing people’s practical experiences and views is such valuable context for this work. Details are on our webpage of this and other work you may be interested in:

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/education-committee.aspx

Participation
Finally, please keep in mind the ways in which the Parliament can help to inform young people and staff as part of their studies or their work. Our education centre arranges visits to schools as well as hosting school visits at the Parliament. It also arranges courses for teachers on political literacy amongst other things.

In addition, if there is any way in which the work of this particular Committee is of interest to any students on relevant courses please let the clerks know. For example, if students interested in journalism wanted to watch a committee meeting (online or in person) and produce a story and you would appreciate someone from the Parliament’s input or feedback on the work, members or Parliament staff would be happy to assist. This is just one idea, I am sure your pupils and staff will have others so please do ask us if you have any suggestions in this regard.

Yours sincerely

JAMES DORNAN MSP
CONVENER