



**The Rt Hon Baroness Jacqui Smith  
Minister for Skills**

Sanctuary Buildings 20 Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT  
tel: 0370 000 2288 [www.education.gov.uk/contactus/df](http://www.education.gov.uk/contactus/df)

The Earl of Clancarty  
House of Lords  
London  
SW1A 0PW

24 February 2025

Dear Lord Clancarty,

I am writing to follow up the question you raised during the recent Lords Oral Question (6<sup>th</sup> February) regarding teacher recruitment and retention, specifically about the level of Initial Teacher Training (ITT) bursaries offered in Art and Design and Music.

I appreciate how vital high-quality education in the arts is, economically and culturally, and how equally important it is that we have a good supply of specialist arts teachers.

Financial incentives are one of the most effective ways to increase teacher supply which is why the department has announced an initial teacher training financial incentives package for the 2025/26 recruitment cycle worth £233 million, which is a £37 million increase on the last cycle. This includes a £10,000 tax free bursary to encourage prospective trainees to teach Art and Design and Music.

The 2024/25 initial teacher training census reported 721 trainees had begun courses in Art and Design, up from 369 trainees in 2023/24. The number starting Music ITT courses also increased to 331 trainees, from 216 in 2023/24.

We review bursaries each year before announcing the offer for trainees starting ITT the following academic year. In doing this, we take account of a number of factors including previous recruitment, forecast economic conditions, and teacher supply need in each subject.

We recognise that there is still work we need to do to reset the relationship with the sector and restore teaching's status as a valued and respected profession; one that new graduates want to join, and one that existing staff wish to remain in and thrive. As one of our first steps for change, we are committed to recruiting an additional 6,500 new expert teachers across our schools, both mainstream and specialist, and our colleges over the course of this parliament.

Thank you again for taking the time to engage on this important topic. I hope these further details have been useful and I will place a copy in the House libraries.

Yours sincerely,

**The Rt Hon Baroness Jacqui Smith  
Minister for Skills**