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Dear Colleague

I am aware and absolutely supportive of the recent communication to all schools from Paul but also keen to add my own personal end of term thoughts. An end of term that brings significant change for me personally as is the case with other colleagues in the education community.

Firstly my enormous thanks for all you and your teams do – for the real difference you increasingly make to the lives of individual children and young people. Ordinary magic increasingly worked across the county! Key to that success is always the quality of the workforce and your leadership of that workforce. It is crucial to current and future progress. Many congratulations for the much improved outcomes at Early Years and KS1 and 2 and best wishes for this summer's KS4 and 5 results!

I had chance to hear the new HMCI Amanda Spielman the other week. Refreshing to hear a potential changed approach that reminds us that education should be about "broadening minds, enriching communities and advancing civilisation". She appears to genuinely believe that we need to revisit "the curriculum and the substance of education" and avoid a reductionist view of education which sees it as being about "preparing your pupils to jump through a series of accountability hoops".

She rightly accepts that what comes with that commitment is a changed expectation needed at Ofsted who must have "a responsibility too: to make sure that, if schools focus on the right things, then a good inspection outcome will follow". We shall see but I hope I am not being naïve in my eternal optimism that a combination of Spielman and Greening heralds greater potential than the axis of Gove and Wilshaw ever could!

Having said that I am writing this the day after the Secretary of States announcements on school funding. We await the detail in September but I am struggling to see how raiding the one-off capital bank to provide enhanced ongoing revenue funding really works in the longer-term. To her credit however, she again took the chance to restate her genuine commitment to enhancing social mobility, a message that resonates with local ambition so well expressed in "Young and Yorkshire 2" our new children and young people's plan. She will hopefully be signing off our delivery plan for the Scarborough Opportunity Area straight after the summer recess and additional resources to support this local priority will no doubt be forthcoming. But clearly it's not just in Scarborough where our

expectations for better outcomes for vulnerable learners need to be again prioritised. Improvements for all which can only be collectively delivered through work within and beyond the school gates.

This week saw Stuart Carlton start as the new Director of Children and Young People's Service in the county. It is great to have him with us and to enjoy the luxury of a proper handover. Having said that he is rightly out and about across the county already taking immediate chances to visit schools and local provision. I am sure you will find a continuity of style and ambition and a real respect for the essential role school leadership plays in delivering against our shared ambitions.

My thanks again for the real warmth of welcome and tremendous ongoing support I have received from schools and school leaders across the county over recent years. A welcome and support both to me personally but more importantly a receptiveness to a language and culture of expectation, collaboration and professional generosity. It has been a real privilege!

My very best wishes to you all for the future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

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