



**Craig Whittaker MP**

**CALDER VALLEY**

[www.craigwhittakermp.co.uk](http://www.craigwhittakermp.co.uk)

### **The EBacc and Creative Arts Subjects**

Thank you for contacting me about the EBacc and the creative arts.

Every child should have access to the best opportunities in Britain, and this means having access to study the key subjects that provide the knowledge and skills young people need to succeed and leave school ready for life in modern Britain. I am very pleased that Ministers want to see 90 per cent of pupils studying GCSEs in the EBacc subjects by 2025. I am encouraged that 40 per cent of pupils are now being entered into EBacc subjects, compared to 22 per cent in 2010.

While the EBacc rightly focuses on the core academic skills that employers and higher education institutions value, pupils will still study a broad curriculum. It covers up to eight GCSEs which leaves room for other choices including creative and artistic subjects.

The EBacc does not exclude or undermine other subjects such as arts, and there is no evidence that mainstream schools who increased EBacc entries also saw their arts entries fall. In fact, there is a small positive correlation between schools' EBacc entries and arts entries, suggesting that schools where EBacc entry has increased tend to have also seen an increase in their arts uptake. Art and Design continues to be a popular GCSE, with 156,734 students taking it in 2017.

Of course, we also need to take into account the fact that the EBacc will not be appropriate for a small minority of pupils. However, no single factor should automatically exclude a pupil from entering the EBacc.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

Craig Whittaker MP