

EDUCATION - INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

I have now visited more than fifty of the sixty eight schools in the constituency to listen to pupils, teachers, parents and governing bodies.

In Northamptonshire average funding per pupil has risen by £300 since 1997, the biggest ever real terms increase in funding for schools. A lot of extra money is going in to repairs and new school buildings. During the last year I attended the official opening of new classrooms at Montsaye (8), Maidwell Primary (2), Rothwell Victoria Infants (2), Grange Primary (2) Park Infants (2) and Rothwell Junior School (8). Some of these schools had been using mobile classrooms for over twenty five years. Other schools have benefited from essential repairs to buildings (see table below).

The extra money is a combination of Government funding, County Council funding, Lottery money and private fund raising. The success of this partnership is of enormous help to our local schools.

This year the funding allocation to Northamptonshire Education Authority has increased by £13.61 million and in April 2001 every school will receive a further direct grant (a typical secondary school will receive £60,000 and most primary schools will get £20,000).

SMALLER CLASS SIZES

In addition to the investment in our school buildings, class sizes for younger pupils have been cut (In Northamptonshire the number of 5,6 and 7 year olds in classes of over 30 was 22% in 1997, this has been reduced to just over 2%).



1. **Opening the pedestrian crossings on the Ise Village**

I have also been involved with the 'Safe Routes to School' initiative and new pedestrian crossings have been installed on the Ise Village, the Broadway and Bridge Street Rothwell to make journeys to school safer for our children.

Young people are our future and during my visits to schools I have been extremely impressed with the efforts and achievements of pupils and the quality, standards and commitment of teachers.

I will continue to listen to, and work with, all those involved with education in our community to ensure that our children get the best possible educational opportunities.

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| • Rothwell Juniors | £380,000 for 8 new classrooms to replace mobiles |
| • Loddington C of E | £23,000 to replace heating system |
| • St Thomas More RC Primary | New heating system and new classrooms |
| • Henry Gotch Infant & Nursery | Roof and guttering repairs |
| • St Mary's C of E, Burton Latimer | New windows and roof repairs |
| • Broughton Primary | Roof repairs |
| • Hawthorn Road | £235,000 three new classrooms and communal area |
| • Avondale Junior | £75,900 for new classrooms |
| • Park infant | £90,000 for new classrooms |
| • Moulton | Additional classrooms |
| • Montsaye - Rothwell | £1 million for 8 new classrooms to replace mobiles |
| • Latimer Community Arts Centre | £750,000 for classrooms, science labs & changing rooms |
| • Guilsborough | £500,000 over 3 years (Technology college status) |
| • Brambleside Primary | £180,000 for two extra classrooms |
| • Maidwell Primary | £185,000 for 2 new classrooms to replace mobiles |
| • Grange Primary | £126,000 for 2 new classrooms to replace mobiles |
| • Bishop Stopford | £750,000 sports hall /sixth form centre |
| • Ise Community College | £1 million for 180 extra places |
| • Latimer Community Arts College | £1.7 million arts centre / £130,000 Media centre |
| • Tresham Institute | £1 million sixth form centre. |
| • Rothwell Victoria Infants | £250,000 for new classrooms |
| • Montsaye - Rothwell | £100,000 Language College status |

The New Deal for Schools (Phase 4) includes money allocated for Primary Schools in Naseby (£21,000), Rushton (£15,000), Clipston (£38,000), Braybrooke £22,000) & Brixworth (£36,000), along with Henry Gotch Junior (£176,000), Park Junior (£49,000), The Ronald Tree Nursery (£11,000), Avondale Infants (£10,500), Kingsley School (£522,000) & Wilbarston (£10,000) for repairs to buildings, heating systems, extra classrooms, etc.

The above is not a complete list but it illustrates just how much investment is going in to local schools and colleges to create a better learning environment.