



Carisbrooke College
Mountbatten Drive
Newport
PO30 5QU

21 March 2025

Dear Carisbrooke College,

RE: Participation in The National Youth Survey

You will no doubt be aware of the many challenges facing young people on the Island. Since Richard was elected in July, schools, education, and employment have remained one of his core priorities. As his Senior Policy Researcher, my work focuses exclusively on these topics. I hope that you have had the opportunity to meet with me already, or will do so in the near future.

The Island presents its own unique set of challenges for young people. The Solent acts as both a physical and financial barrier for students, limiting employer engagement opportunities as compared to those studying on the mainland. These challenges are further compounded by our status as a coastal, rural community with a growing enrolment deficit fuelled by a changing population.

I am writing to you because there is currently an important opportunity for your students and young people to directly contribute to a major national initiative — the shaping of the £185 million National Youth Strategy. Richard is keen to ensure that the voices of the Island's youth are represented in national conversations, and I am pleased therefore to share that the **National Youth Survey** is now accepting responses.

The short survey, designed for those aged between 10-21, has been launched to allow young people's challenges and suggestions to shape the Government's Youth Strategy when it will be launched in Summer. Given that previous surveys of this kind only received approximately 6,000 responses in total, high **participation from Isle of Wight youth may have a significant impact on the resulting data**. This is a real opportunity for young Islanders to bring the unique challenges associated with living on the Island to the attention of decision-makers in central government.

Richard is working tirelessly in Westminster to raise the profile of these issues, but there is no substitute for Ministers hearing directly from young people themselves. This is the most effective opportunity in the coming months to put local concerns on the national agenda. Whether it's circulating the survey to your students and young people, or setting aside dedicated time for them to complete the survey, any engagement you can generate would be incredibly valuable.

The survey will only take a few minutes to complete and will remain open for responses until **Wednesday 16 April**. You can access the survey at: <https://www.iwill.org.uk/NYS-Deliver-You/>.

If you would like to discuss this, or any other matter, further, please don't hesitate to get in touch. My email is phil.attfield@parliament.uk and my telephone number is 01983 244980 – EXT 1004.

Best wishes,

Phil Attfield

Senior Policy Researcher