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Michael Scholar Esq  
Private Secretary  
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*How very disappointing -  
I thought we were celebrating  
new linked schools*

April 1983

Dear Michael

TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION INITIATIVE

You told me that the Prime Minister had asked where pilot schemes under this Initiative will be housed and whether in general they will be in existing schools or in separate premises.

The broad answer is that schemes will be housed in existing institutions, both schools and further education colleges, depending on local circumstances. When the Initiative was first announced, we could not be certain what response it would get from local education authorities and we were therefore careful to leave open the option of MSC setting up separate projects, outside existing education institutions, if this should prove necessary. David Young has gone out of his way, however, to make clear that the Commission preferred to work with and through local education authorities and after some initial hesitation the general response from authorities and other education interests has been positive. As Mr Tebbit said in his letter of 21 April to the Chief Secretary, some two-thirds of all local education authorities put in bids. Since our aim is to stimulate radical long-term changes in the curriculum offered to young people throughout the education system, we and MSC are naturally delighted to be getting this kind of co-operation.

*TPM*

One of the purposes of the Initiative is to test different institutional arrangements for delivering technical and vocational education to the 14-18 age group. The 14 schemes selected to start in September offer therefore a variety of approaches. In general, however, young people being supported will constitute a proportion of those in the fourth and fifth year of particular secondary schools, linking up with local colleges to provide certain elements of courses.

I am copying this to John Gieve (Treasury) and Imogen Wilde (DES).

*Yours Sincerely  
Felicity Everiss*

MS F M EVERISS  
Private Secretary





10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

25 April, 1983

Technical and Vocational Education Initiative

Thank you for your letter of 22 April about the pilot schemes under the Technical and Vocational Education Initiative.

I showed this to the Prime Minister over the weekend. She has commented that she is most disappointed by this information; she believed that the Government was establishing 14 new technical schools.

I am sending a copy of this to John Gieve (Chief Secretary's Office) and Imogen Wilde (Department of Education and Science).

M. C. SCHOLAR

Ms. F. M. Everiss,  
Department of Employment

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A handwritten signature, possibly 'FIVE', written in the bottom right corner of the page.