

Students from across Wales will have received their A Level results and whilst many of our young people will be celebrating, many observers will be engaging in the, now annual, debate on whether standards are dropping or whether examinations are getting easier.

My first reaction is to congratulate our young people on their hard work and on their results. I think it is also important to pay tribute to our hard working teachers who work in such a dedicated fashion for our young people. They indeed play a vital role in our communities.

Since the dawn of the One Wales Government, education is now a right for everyone in Wales. This government-guaranteed right will be backed up with new money for education and accredited training up to the age of eighteen.

There are also new plans for expanding Welsh medium education across Wales and the establishment of a Welsh Federal College. I am particularly excited at the prospect of the establishment of a Welsh medium institution for higher education, giving people the chance to study in the language of their choice.

We can all remember former Prime Minister Tony Blair proclaiming Labour's top three priorities being "education, education, education." I am confident that the One Wales Government will do more than provide us with rhetoric and build a world-class education system in Wales.

On a local level, my new constituency office for the South Wales West region is now up and running and fully staffed. I am determined to create a new style of engaging with the public. These days politicians seem distant and out of touch with the day-to-day lives of the people.

My new office is open to all. I am here as a servant to the people of South Wales West and am committed to listen and to act on the concerns of the people. What ever your issues or concerns please feel free to call my office on 01639 643 549 or call in between 10am and 4pm Tuesdays to Thursdays at 75 Briton Ferry Road, Neath.

I have already had several constituents call in for a chat and a cup of tea and very much look forward to meeting more people and helping resolve their issues. Politics, after all, is all about people. I entered politics because I want to help people and make a difference to their day-to-day lives.

My new presence in the area, I hope will be a first step in achieving those aspirations.