

Dr Neil Hudson MP
Member of Parliament for Penrith and The Border



Newton Rigg College
Penrith
Cumbria CA11 0AH

May 2020

Dear Students and Staff of Newton Rigg,

Following on from the hugely disappointing news that Askham Bryan are proposing the closure of the Newton Rigg Campus in July 2021, I wanted to share with you all my feelings and offer my continuing support to you all as we look for a viable future for Newton Rigg.

As you will be aware, over the last three months I have been, and will continue to be, working hard to secure a future for this valuable and important college. I have held meetings with stakeholders, Ministers, the FE Commissioner's Office and Askham Bryan. I launched a [petition](#) to highlight the importance of the College, not only to Cumbria but also to the wider nation's rural economy. Last week I spoke in Parliament and stressed the importance of Newton Rigg.

In the statement released by Askham Bryan College last week, the proposed closure is subject to the outcome of a 45-day consultation process with all of the Newton Rigg staff and the trade unions. This is not going to be easy for any of you to go through, and I know you may feel already that the battle is lost. But now, more than ever, I urge you to keep going.

One glimmer of light for us is that Askham Bryan have listened to my call for them to delay the implementation of their decision for as long as possible, and the fact that Newton Rigg will be open for business as normal this coming academic year gives us the window to implement a rescue plan and present a flourishing year as evidence.

I will continue do my upmost for Newton Rigg, and I truly believe we can, together, secure a future for this great institution. I will be in touch with you again soon, but in the meantime, should you have any thoughts or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me directly. We can do this!

With very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Neil'.

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA