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Date 31st August 2018

For the attention of the APPG secretariat.

**APPG for International Students Inquiry.
Comment from Exeter Academy School of English in Exeter, Devon.**

The educational and economic opportunities of welcoming international students into our school are myriad.

We frequently host people who are key decision makers in their countries and who can further the reputation of the UK.

For example many of our Saudi students are sponsored by their governments for up to 5 years or more. They gain huge insight into British culture and establish long-term connections and relationships with people they meet here.

They often send colleagues and family members for study in future years.

These students return home often to jobs which involve dealing internationally and the time spent in the UK certainly ensures that they look favourably on working with and investing in the UK.

We welcome students from 30+ countries around the world and the relationships made can last a life-time.

This goes a great deal towards fostering intercultural understanding and tolerance.

It is a great source of pleasure to see Greenlanders speaking to Koreans and Saudis as equals and friends.

Students tend to stay on average 7 weeks and this leads to a great deal of expenditure within the community in areas such as entertainment, food, transport etc.

We estimate the annual income from our school alone with around 2000 students weeks per year (an average of 40 students per week) to be around £2 million per annum.

Our students provide income for local families, where they act as host families and local businesses when they spend their money.

They also help to put the South West of the UK on the map in terms of tourism etc. utilising local transport and of course airlines.

Exeter has benefited from this cultural diversity and grown as a cultural centre. There are many outlets catering for the student population in the way of food and everyday products and services etc.

Their presence also promotes inter-cultural awareness and respect, which is ever more important in these times.

We support a welcoming visa policy regarding international students and would suggest that these policies are designed to ease the application process in order to create the impression that international students are welcome.

We would also ask that work permission can be reinstated for students on Short term study visas, so supplement studies as we are aware that countries such as Ireland, Canada etc. are seeing rapid growth in student numbers as a result of these permissions being granted.

Thank you for your attention and kind regards,

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Bungay', with a large, stylized initial 'A'.

Andrew Bungay.
Principal.