

# Portsmouth School & Sixth Form College budgets slashed

Penny Mordaunt, PPC for Portsmouth North has asked Government Ministers, including our own MP who is an Education Minister, to give assurances to Portsmouth College and the City's schools that are facing cuts to their funding because of Whitehall blundering.

After telling schools and sixth form colleges how much funding they would receive next year for teaching 16-18 year olds, the Learning and Skills Council, a Government quango, suddenly changed its mind. It failed to predict the number of students accurately. It has now cut school budgets across the country by up to £350,000 for sixth form colleges and £55,000 for an average school.

Portsmouth College has had the double whammy of also being one of the 144 Further Education Colleges whose building projects have been frozen. The LSC knew about the problem back in November and Penny wants to know why nothing was done to communicate and rectify the problem. She said; "Our MP and her colleagues must come clean about what will happen to these projects. Together, these Government blunders could deprive thousands of young people of the opportunity to study. We want guarantees that that local schools and Sixth Form Colleges in Portsmouth will not have to turn away students next year because of this gross bureaucratic incompetence."



## Congratulations to Cosham's Tax Credit Casualties



A Cosham based campaign group has been nominated for an award from the Centre for Social Justice. The group provides help and support to those who have been victims of Government maladministration of the tax credit system, which has resulted in thousands of people being in debt through no fault of their own. Penny said, "One lady I met recently, who worked full time, had only £30 a month to live on due to the Treasury's errors. Two out of every three payments made by the Treasury are incorrect and the mountain of paperwork and bureaucracy the victims have to wade through is unbelievable. The work the Tax credit casualties do is incredible and we need to thank their volunteers for all the help they give people in desperate situations."

**NEW WEBSITE**

Penny has recently launched a brand new website featuring interactive pages, up to date video blogs, downloads and much, much more. Check it out!



[www.pennymordaunt.com](http://www.pennymordaunt.com)



## Let off some steam and tell us what you think...

If there were a General Election tomorrow how would you vote?  
 Con  Lab  Lib Dem  Other  Not sure

Send back to Penny Mordaunt at: Portsmouth North Conservatives, FREEPOST, 19 South Street, PO9 1BU

I would like to help my local Conservatives

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