

## **New MP Briefing: Education**

The Vuelio political team have put together a briefing on first time MPs with a background in education.



**Robin Millar**

Robin Millar was elected as the Conservative MP for Aberconwy in December 2019 with a majority of 2,034. Millar's professional career began in engineering, allowing him to work across the UK, Russia and America. After leaving engineering, he became a management consultant and businessman, focused on public sector reform and government.

Prior to being elected, Millar was a Conservative Councillor in Suffolk. He is the former Deputy leader of Forest Heath Council and was a member of the Suffolk County Council's Cabinet until 2018. During this time, he started an assisted reading programme in local schools and is the co-founder of a small charity investing in young people.

Millar has said he will move to Aberconwy following the election result. During his campaign he highlighted key policy issues as: communities, climate change, poverty, and Brexit.



Beth Winter

Beth Winter was elected as the Labour MP for Cynon Valley in December 2019 with a majority of 8,822.

Winter was born and raised in Cynon Valley, where she still lives with her husband and children. Prior to her election to Parliament, she worked as a communications officer for the University and College Union Wales. She is committed to the area and has served in community groups working with young people.



### Caroline Ansell

Caroline Ansell is the Conservative MP for Eastbourne who was elected in 2019 with a majority of 4,331. She was also previously the MP for Eastbourne from 2015 to 2017 beating Stephen Lloyd, the Lib Dem. She then ousted him for the second time in 2019.

Ansell studied French at Royal Holloway, University of London and then business at a private University in France. She obtained a master's degree in education from the University of Brighton in 2001 and went on to work as a French teacher in private schools for several years. At the age of 37 she qualified as a headteacher but did not go on to take up the role professionally. She took a sabbatical from teaching after discovering one of her children had a brain tumour.



Paul Holmes

Paul Holmes is the Conservative MP for Eastleigh after being elected in 2019 with a majority of 15,607 votes.

Holmes was elected to Southampton City Council in 2008, where he served for four years. During that time, he was Cabinet member for Children's Services and Learning (June 2009-February 2011); Chairman of Southampton Children's Trust Board (June 2009-February 2011); and Chairman of the Authority's Planning Committee (August 2008-June 2009).

From February 2011 to June 2015 Holmes was a parliamentary assistant to Stephen Hammond, MP for Wimbledon and Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department for Transport. Holmes briefly worked as an account manager for PR firm Portland before joining the Cabinet Office as special adviser to the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. Following this he became special adviser to the First Secretary of State, Damian Green, then moved to the Department for Education, where he was assisting Education Secretary Damian Hinds in establishing his office.



### Edward Timpson

Edward Timpson is the Conservative MP for Eddisbury. He was elected on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2019, achieving a majority of 18,443. He previously served as MP for Crewe and Nantwich between 2008 and 2017 and was Minister of State for Children and Families from 2015 to 2017. His father John is CEO and owner of the Timpson shoe repair and key-cutting business. He grew up with his brother and sister. His parents fostered over 80 children during a 30-year period.

Following his re-election to Parliament in 2010, Timpson was appointed to the role of Parliamentary Private Secretary to Theresa May, who was Home Secretary at the time. In 2012, he was given the position of Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families at the Department for Education.

Timpson was re-elected in the 2015 General Election, after which David Cameron appointed him Minister of State for Children and Families. In the 2017 general election, he lost his seat by 48 votes after three recounts.



### Sally-Ann Hart

Sally-Ann Hart is the Conservative MP for Hastings and Rye with a majority of 4,043. She studied Geography at King's College London, before studying law at the College of Law and becoming a solicitor. She has been a magistrate since 2005. In 2015 she was elected to Rother District Council, becoming Portfolio Holder for Public Realm, Tourism and Culture in 2016. She is Governor of three schools in Hastings.

Hart unsuccessfully contested the North West Durham constituency for the Conservatives in 2017. In November 2019, she was selected as the Conservative candidate for Hastings after the incumbent MP Amber Rudd resigned from the party. During the election, the Conservatives had to open an investigation into Hart after it was alleged that she shared antisemitic, Islamophobic and homophobic material online, while comments she made about people with learning disabilities also drew criticism. Hart was elected as an MP despite this.



Felicity Buchan

Felicity Buchan is the Conservative MP for Kensington, having been elected in December 2019 with a majority of 150, defeating Labour incumbent Emma Dent Coad.

Born in North East Scotland Buchan studied Law at Christ Church, Oxford, before working in financial services. Following her career in the city, she became chair of governors at a primary school and volunteered for a children's charity.

Buchan unsuccessfully contesting South Down in 2015 and South Shields in 2017, Buchan was selected as the Conservative candidate for Kensington in July 2019. She has lived in Kensington and Chelsea for 25 years and was Treasurer of the local Conservative Association.



### Rachel Hopkins

Rachel Hopkins has been the Labour MP for Luton South since December 2019, winning by a majority of 8,756.

Hopkins was born in Luton and is the daughter of the former Luton North MP Kelvin Hopkins. After completing a degree in French and Politics at the University of Leicester, her first full time job was working in TSB's customer service centre in the town. She has subsequently worked for a range of public sector organisations, including the Electoral Commission, the General Social Care Council, the Training and Development Agency for Schools, the University of Bedfordshire, and the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, where she was Head of Human Resources. She has also completed an MSc in Human Resource Management at the University of Bedfordshire.

Hopkins has been a Labour Councillor in Luton since 2011 and at the time of her election to Parliament she sat on the council's executive, with responsibility for public health. She was selected as the Labour candidate for Luton South in November 2019 (the incumbent MP, Gavin Shuker, having defected to The Independent Group For Change) and successfully elected the following month.





### Gagan Mohindra

Gagan Mohindra is the Conservative MP for South West Hertfordshire with a majority of 14,408, replacing David Gauke. After studying at Kings College London, Mohindra worked in financial services before working for his family's retail business.

As a Councillor, Mohindra was the Chairman of Planning on his District Council, as well as being the Lead Member at the County Council for Finance, Property and Housing. He has been a member of the Conservative Party since 2003 and has served as the Chairman of Essex Conservatives. He has previously stood as the Conservative Parliamentary candidate for North Tyneside in 2010. In addition, he made the shortlist to replace Eric Pickles when he stood down as Conservative candidate in Brentwood and Ongar but was defeated in the second round of voting.

Mohindra is passionate about education and health standards. These interests led him to become a Governor of a high performing school and also the Governor of the Anderson National Autistic School.



### Jonathan Gullis

Jonathan Gullis is the Conservative MP for Stoke-on-Trent North with a majority of 6,286.

Before being elected as an MP, Gullis was as a secondary school teacher in Birmingham. Within this role, he was Head of Year, overseeing school attendance and was also the school trade union representative for the NASUWT.

Gullis' election campaign was heavily focused on Brexit. His other policy interests include education, and he has pledged to ensure world class education is provided for every child regardless of background. On housing, he wants the focus to be on building much needed homes across Stoke-on-Trent. He wants to continue to build upon Ceramic Valley Enterprise Zone and support small and large business, as they continue to grow and create good jobs for local people. Finally, within healthcare, he aims to champion local NHS services with focus on the quality of mental health provision.



David Johnston

David Johnston is the Conservative MP for Wantage, where he achieved a majority of 12,653. He studied at Oxford University, graduating with a BA in History and Politics.

Prior to being elected, Johnston was the Chief Executive of The Social Mobility Foundation where he worked for 10 years, leading a charity who support low income young people to gain opportunities into universities and employment across the UK. Previously to this, he was the Director of a charity called Future, which similarly aims to help disadvantaged young people through grants and guidance in academy schools and organisations. Johnston holds a clear passion towards helping young people and improving their educational and employment opportunities.



### Virginia Crosbie

Virginia Crosbie MP is a member of the Conservative Party, representing the constituency of Ynys Môn since 12th December 2019, where she achieved a majority of 1,968 votes.

Crosbie comes from a working-class background and was brought up on her family farm. Crosbie previously worked as a maths teacher and is focused on educating the younger generation.

She also worked at a pharmaceutical company formerly known as GlaxoWellcome, where her role was concentrated towards the production of Interferon (a group of signalling proteins made and released by host cells in response to the presence of several viruses.) She also worked at multinational investment bank UBS, where she became one of the youngest directors in the history of the company. Finally, she worked at HSBC where she was recognised for her achievements by being awarded leading pharmaceutical analyst.



### Scott Benton

Scott Benton was elected as the Conservative MP for Blackpool South in December 2019 with a majority of 3,690. Benton previously worked as a primary school teacher where he focused on supporting under-privileged children. In his political career, he worked for Craig Whittaker MP and also served as a Councillor on Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council for 8 years, during which time he was Deputy Leader of the council.

Benton's political priorities during the election campaign were delivering a strong local economy and creating more jobs for local people; re-opening the Airport for commercial passenger flights to support the Blackpool tourism industry; and delivering a Brexit that brings prosperity to the region.



### Selaine Saxby

Selaine Saxby is the Conservative MP for North Devon with a majority of 14,813. Saxby studied Maths at Cambridge and graduated with a first. Saxby established and ran a successful online retail business for 15 years before becoming a secondary school teacher. She also worked as Chief of Staff for Ben Howlett, MP for Bath between 2015-17.

Saxby replaced incumbent Tory MP Peter Heaton-Jones 30 days before the election, after he stepped down for personal reasons. Prior to the election she was a district councillor in Instow, where she is from originally.



### Richard Holden

Richard Holden is the Conservative MP for Durham North West and has a majority of 1,144. Holden took back the seat where Theresa May once stood, beating the Labour candidate Laura Pidcock by a slim margin. This cost her the role as Shadow Secretary of State for Employment Rights under Jeremy Corbyn. The seat has been held by Labour since its creation in 1950.

Holden worked for the Conservative Party for eight years, first in data, then as a press officer and finally Deputy Head of Press during which time he worked on Theresa May's campaign. He also was aide to the former Transport Secretary Chris Grayling and most recently, Education Secretary Gavin Williamson. Holden was working as an aide to Tory MP Sir Michael Fallon until 2017 when he was asked to resign after being accused of groping a woman in 2016. He was later cleared of the charge by a jury.



### Miriam Cates

Miriam Cates is the new MP for Penistone and Stocksbridge with a majority of 7,210. She was brought up in Sheffield, attending a local comprehensive before studying Genetics at Cambridge, after which she taught Chemistry and Biology at Tapton School. Prior to becoming an MP, Cates was taking a career break to raise her children and help her husband start a business, she chaired the school PTA and set up a youth group and worked as a Parish Councillor.

However, Cates has come under fire as the business, an app called Foodbank, charges foodbanks to list the items that they need. This led people to accuse her of profiting from vulnerable people, although the charge of £180 is for foodbanks to register and subscribe to the service. Cates claims the company only charges this amount to cover administration costs and that neither herself or her husband makes a profit.





### David Simmonds

David Simmonds was elected as the Conservative Member of Parliament for Ruislip, Northwood and Pinner in the 2019 General Election with a majority of 16,394. He attended both Durham University and Birkbeck College, after which he qualified with the Chartered Institute of Insurers in 1997 and worked in finance. Simmonds was appointed a CBE in the 2015 Birthday Honours list.

He is the Deputy Leader of Hillingdon Council and has served as Ickenham's representative for two decades. At the time of his election he was the youngest councillor in London.

Simmonds is committed to improving education for young people which he has pursued through various routes. In his role as councillor, he led on education and children's services, overseeing the progress of the borough in raising standards for children, with every child able to get a local school place and over 90% of schools rated good or outstanding by Ofsted. He has also been a trustee of the Early Intervention Foundation and has been a governor of three schools.

Simmonds chaired the LGA Children and Young People Board from 2011-15 and the Improvement and Innovation Board 2015-16. As chairman of the Asylum and Refugee Task Group he has led work developing the Syrian resettlement programme and the National Transfer Scheme to support refugee children in partnership with Government.



### Holly Mumby-Croft

Holly Mumby-Croft is the Conservative Member of Parliament for Scunthorpe since 2019, gaining the seat from Labour incumbent Nic Dakin. Prior to this Mumby-Croft was a councillor for Broughton and Appleby on North Lincolnshire Council. She is the first female MP in her constituency, as well as the first Conservative to hold the seat since 1983. Having secured the votes of many former Labour supporters, she has promised to represent voters of all parties.

As a Councillor she was involved in education, as the Lead Member for Younger People and Skills. She is also the chairman of the Health Scrutiny Panel. She was also deputy town at 25 and was elected as Broughton's youngest-ever mayor in 2013. Ms Mumby-Croft's top priority is supporting British Steel and its workers, who she has close family connections to. The company is the supplier of thousands of jobs in Scunthorpe. She repeatedly urged the council to put the brakes on plans to let Egdon Resources from drilling at a site on her ward, accusing the firm of being "disrespectful" to residents. Mumby-Croft describes herself as a working-class northern woman, not a career politician.

Mumby-Croft has pledged to support Brexit by backing Johnson's deal. She is also involved with NHS issues in her role on the Health Scrutiny Panel and stated she is well placed to work with local health bosses to ensure services are protected.



### Laura Trott

Laura Trott is the Conservative Party MP for Sevenoaks, and she is also the first woman to represent the constituency. She replaced former Defence Secretary Sir Michael Fallon as he stepped down before the election. Growing up in Oxted, Trott is the first in her family to go to university, studying Economics at Oxford.

She was previously adviser to the Conservative Party from 2009 onwards, and from May 2010-February 2012 worked as a policy and media adviser to Francis Maude, Minister for the Cabinet office. She was subsequently appointed a political adviser and head of family and education policy at Downing Street. She worked as Director of Strategic Communications for David Cameron until 2016. Cameron made her MBE in his resignation honours list. At the time of her nomination, Trott was ambassador for the Sutton Trust, a charity that aims to improve social mobility and address educational disadvantage. Trott is a partner in Portland Communications, and a frequent face on BBC and Sky.

Trott describes herself as a "one nation Tory" and during her three-week campaign she pledged to fight for a new boys' grammar school, to preserve the green belt and for a better deal for commuters.