



**Damian Hinds**  
*MP for East Hampshire*

10 November 2010

## **Damian Hinds Hosts Association of South East Colleges in the House of Commons**

This week Damian Hinds hosted a dinner and discussion for MPs, Ministers and the Association of South East Colleges.

In addition to hosting the event in the House of Commons, Damian Hinds also acted as Chairman for the discuss which followed dinner and ranged across a number of related subjects to do with further education, including; future funding arrangements, work place training and apprenticeships, adult education and training as well as higher education.

Present at the dinner and active in the discussion were Jane Machell, the Principal of Alton College and David Willetts, the Minister for Universities.

Speaking about the event Damian Hinds said

*"I was so glad to be able both to host the dinner and chair the discussion. Almost all young people in Hampshire study in colleges as opposed to school sixth forms and they are a vital part of our educational framework. Alton College is a real beacon of excellence.*

*The role of colleges is about more than just preparing for University - apprenticeships and work based training are a vital part of filling skills shortages and rebalancing our economy and I am glad I could play a part in the dialogue between them and Ministers."*

AoSEC said

*"Association of South East Colleges is most grateful to Damian Hinds for sponsoring the parliamentary event for Hampshire FE College Principals to meet with their MPs.*

*These functions provide an invaluable opportunity for the College sector to collectively raise issues affecting students in Hampshire, and explore solutions that will help ensure that all young people and adults in the county are able to access a good education.*

*Mr Hinds' strong understanding of Further Education issues ensured that a good debate was held, and we are most appreciative to him for his support."*

**ENDS**

Notes to Editors

Damian Hinds sits on the House of Commons Education Select Committee

For more information on the Association of South Eat Colleges please contact Rupert Garnett at AoSEC on 0118 3782487 or at [rupertgarnett@aosec.org.uk](mailto:rupertgarnett@aosec.org.uk)