

THE TUTORS' ASSOCIATION

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As president of the Tutors' Association, can I say how much we support the thinking in the article by Sir Peter Lampl (Telegraph, 8th September, 'Open up private tuition to poor pupils').

There are things that one-to-one and small group tuition can achieve that are simply not possible in a classroom environment – no matter how big or small the class size. Adding private tuition into a child's educational mix is not a comment on how well they are being taught at school, it is adding a new dimension to the way in which they can learn – and learning is at the heart of creating social mobility.

Bright children need stretching to achieve their full potential, and The Tutors' Association stands whole-heartedly behind the need to make private tuition available to all those who will benefit from it – whatever their social or economic background.

A number of our members already try to assist by providing subsidised tuition to families who would otherwise not be able to afford it, but an initiative on a grander scale is required to reach all of those who would benefit from it.

A voucher-type system as suggested by Sir Peter and the Sutton Trust would be a substantial step forward. The vast majority of our members entered the field of private tuition for the sheer satisfaction that seeing a child achieve their potential gives. To be able to do this across the whole social and economic spectrum would be exciting and fulfilling for them – and hugely beneficial to society as a whole.

Adam Muckle

President, The Tutors' Association.