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sabled people and carers at
r Netley Waterside House
spite holiday centre in
outhampton.

We welcome guests
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STEPHANE STONE
Revitalise

www.revitalise.org.uk

Champions!

AM not a fan of football
ut I was delighted to hear
ews of Taunton Town's
romotion.

It is nice to see something
1 the town doing well.

As a child I can remember
aunton Town being quite a
ig deal but that seems not to
ave been the case in recent
ears, so it is nice to read
bout them having some big
uccess.

I wish them all the best in
whatever comes next!

And let's hope the cricket
eam can match their
chievements in the next
ouple of months.

SPORT FAN
Taunton

Pothole plea

S there any reason potholes
re not filled in?

I live in a small village
ear Taunton and it seems
otholes - some which are
bsolutely enormous - do not
get any attention here.

The town centre seems to
be okay and does have some
work done to repair them,
but anywhere appears to be
completely off the council's
adar.

Please, please do
something.

NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED

Westminster Diary



VISITS: Taunton Deane MP Rebecca Pow

College work will help young people

THIS week, I was delighted to attend the official opening of the £3 million new art and computing facility at Richard Huish College.

Over the past five years the college has benefited from over £5 million of Government funding towards upgrading buildings and developing new ones which has contributed towards the college maintaining its strong position in the Times top 10 sixth form colleges in the country for the third year running.

As well as enabling students to reach their full potential in the creative sector, this new art facility together with the music hub which is underway, also mean that the wider benefits of the creative world can be harnessed by many bringing to young people enjoyment, fulfilment and the subsequent positive impacts this can have on mental health.

The sixth form college sector however does face some particular challenges, not least in the seeming unfairness in funding per pupil compared to other education sectors (they receive much less) and I shall be raising this with Education Ministers.

It is only possible to fund projects like the arts centre at Richard Huish through prudent handling of the public purse. And thanks to the Chancellor's firm hand, by March this year, the dire deficit inherited from the previous Labour Government had been cut by three quarters since 2010 which means that instead of borrowing £1 for every £18 spent on the nation's needs this has been reduced to £1 in every £4.

There is still more to do but this progress means that, among other things, nurses have been given a much-deserved pay rise (something I urged the Chancellor to consider) and from April pensions will go up by 3 per cent, helping to protect people in old age.

This month too, every worker on the minimum wage will get an increase thanks to this government's raising of the National Minimum Wage – including 16 year olds and apprentices; and the tax-free personal allowance is going up, which I am sure will be welcomed by many.

REBECCA POW
MP for Taunton Deane