



Caroline Dinenage

**MP for Gosport,
Lee-on-the-Solent,
Stubbington and
Hill Head**



It has been an educational month as I spent time with local students. I held a Q&A with pupils from both Leesland Infant and Junior Schools, chatted with students at Gosport Enterprise Academy and watched the pupils at Holbrook Primary singing and signing in Makaton. St. Johns C of E Primary School also came to have a tour of Parliament where we discussed democracy and politics.

The Secretary of State for Education, Damian Hinds MP, came to Gosport to meet with Head Teachers from across the Constituency and discuss their concerns. He also [opened the new STEM Centre](#) at the Bay House Community Hub. This is the first facility of its kind in the country, sponsored by businesses and is available for local schools and the community.

Local schools and businesses are building on this successful partnership by launching the inaugural Gosport and Fareham Multi Academy Trust Business and Education Forum. They plan to work together to create better career paths and employability skills for local children.

The pupils of St. Vincent's College wowed me with their organisation and enthusiasm, creating this year's [Red Nose Day run](#) that travelled through local schools. I was honoured to sound the horn to start the race at Bedenham Primary, seeing the pupils brave wind and rain to raise money for [Comic Relief](#).

This month was cause for other celebrations including [World Book Day](#) and High Street Saturday, as well as local company [Carpet Fayre's](#) 30th Birthday. It was great to celebrate the important milestone of this local independent trader with their customers and staff.

I also celebrated my office in Gosport becoming [Dementia Friendly](#) and would highly encourage other residents and businesses across our area to do the same!

I joined local employer Huhtamaki to [present qualification certificates](#) to two of their apprentices for National Apprenticeship Week. As part of B&B Week, I visited the lovely [Milvil Corner Guest House](#) in Lee on the Solent and was treated to a great cuppa. I also joined in at the Fairtrade Tea Party in the Town Hall and Chocolate Event at the Discovery Centre during Fairtrade Fortnight, learning more about buying Fairtrade products locally and how they promote sustainable, fair farming around the world.

To commemorate Earth Hour I [joined the WWF](#) in Parliament. Protecting our natural environment is incredibly important and my [#PlasticPledge](#) - giving up single-use plastic for Lent—will continue into April. You can follow my journey, [#ThursdayTips](#) and [#PlasticPeeves](#) [here](#).



At Holbrook Primary singing and signing in Makaton.



Education Secretary, Damian Hinds, at the Gosport STEM Centre.



Starting the Red Nose Day run at Bedenham Primary School!

For International Women's Day, I took part in the [#BetterforBalance campaign](#). I also showed my support for the [Marie Curie Daffodil Appeal](#) this month, helped raise awareness about Ovarian Cancer and met with Gemma McKnight from [Maggie's Cancer Service](#) in Southampton to discuss their work.



Supporting the Marie Curie Daffodil Appeal.

In Gosport, the final funding for the [Eclipse Bus Rapid Transit extension](#) to Rowner Junction has secured. Nationally, a vital [new review of transport laws](#) with £90 million funding is a positive step to solving our transport problems.

The Gosport Coastal Community Team has also been [granted £45 000](#) by the Government to restore and maintain Trinity Bastion, by Holy Trinity Church, protecting our rich naval history.



Supporting #BetterforBalance for International Women's Day.

I attended the local Public Forum with Chief Executive Mark Cubbon from Queen Alexandra Hospital, hearing the problems that residents are facing and issues that the hospital is dealing with. I spent a morning work-shadowing a District Nurse. I also met with both staff and patients at the Willow Group to discuss some constituents' concerns and hear how they are tackling some of the challenges facing local GP services.

As ever, Brexit remains the focus in both Parliament and the headlines. You can keep up to date with my position on recent votes [here](#).

Otherwise, we have welcomed good news in the [Spring Statement](#), including that unemployment has fallen below 4% for the first time since 1975, and female employment is at a record high. The Government is going to be investing in homes, the NHS, tackling period poverty and implementing new Clean Growth measures. I particularly welcomed the announcement that £100 million has been granted to tackle serious violent and knife crime, less than a month after Michael Lane, Hampshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, informed me Hampshire will be recruiting an extra 200 police officers this year.

[Increased funding](#) has also been granted to end homelessness, with £1 million given to veterans who are at risk of, or are, homeless and £46 million to end rough sleeping. In Gosport, we had a fruitful meeting with local organisations to discuss starting a potential Help the Homeless Project for next winter.

The Government has launched a consultation on both [Post-16 Qualifications consultation](#) and [children's exposure to unhealthy ads](#), I encourage all residents to have their say in our children's future.

Coming up, you can still nominate your local NHS healthcare hero for the Parliamentary Awards [here](#) - is there an individual, team or volunteer that have made a positive difference to your life? Nominations close April 26th.

[Safer Gosport Community Day](#) is on the 27th April where you can join some of the wonderful local organisations who keep us safe, get some useful info and advice (and check out some cool vehicles and kit!) from 11am - 2pm by the Civic Offices in the High Street.



Celebrating World Book Day with the Gosportians Gruffalo.

Best wishes,

Caroline

GET IN TOUCH

Please feel free to contact me on any issue, or to find out when my next surgery is. I'm always happy to arrange tours of the Palace of Westminster for my constituents. Please contact my office at least three months in advance to make sure you get a place - the tours are very popular!

[Constituency Office](#): 023 9252 2121

[Westminster Office](#): 020 7219 7078

[Email](mailto:caroline.dinenage.mp@parliament.uk): caroline.dinenage.mp@parliament.uk

[Website](http://www.caroline4gosport.co.uk): www.caroline4gosport.co.uk

[Address](#): 167 Stoke Road
Gosport PO12 1SE