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THE PRIME MINISTER

30 October 2015

Dear President Xu,

I am delighted to congratulate South West Jiaotong University (SWJTU) and the University of Leeds on the launch of your joint school of engineering and computing science in Chengdu.

The economic and cultural ties between the UK and China have never been stronger and President Xi Jinping's recent State Visit to the United Kingdom marked the start of a "golden era" between our countries, where we committed to expand our cooperation further, including in science, technology and education.

The SWJTU-Leeds joint school is an excellent example of this collaboration and brings together two leading universities. These institutions share significant strengths: the University of Leeds has been recognised for its work in education and research across engineering and transport, while SWJTU specialises in high speed rail innovation, where both President Xi and I hope to see cooperation in the future.

This partnership will cultivate global talent and build strong connections between the UK, China and other parts of the world, addressing future skills requirements and opening up new research opportunities. For this reason, the school will not only benefit Chinese and British students, providing them with a unique experience as they access an enhanced curriculum and study abroad, but also the business community and the wider economy in China and the UK.

I warmly welcome the support that the Chinese Ministry of Education has shown through its approval process for the Joint School. Shared education initiatives such as this provide a bridge for economic, social and cultural understanding which is of great value to both countries.

I wish your partnership every success.

Yours sincerely,
David Cameron

President Xu Fei