



AN AUDIENCE WITH LORD BAKER

Lord Baker of Dorking CH PC (Kenneth Baker) was one of the most influential politicians of the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s, holding office across three decades and serving three Conservative Prime Ministers.

He was elected as Member of Parliament for Acton in a by-election in March 1968, which Labour won back 1970. He was then elected for St Marylebone in a further by-election in October 1970 after the elevation of Quinton Hogg to become Lord Chancellor. He retained St Marylebone until the election of 1983 when the constituency was abolished in the boundary review, securing election in Mole Valley in Surrey, which he held until his retirement in 1997.

Kenneth Baker's first appointment was in 1972 as Parliamentary Secretary at the Civil Service Department. In 1974 he was appointed by Ted Heath to be his Parliamentary Private Secretary (PPS) during which time he helped run Ted Heath's campaign to retain the leadership of the Conservative Party. This closeness to Heath did little to endear him to the new regime and he was not offered a post by Margaret Thatcher in 1979. His championing of new technology was recognised when, in 1981, he was appointed the first ever Minister for Information Technology and was promoted to the Cabinet in 1985 as Secretary of State for the Environment.

Baker rose to national prominence two years later when he became Secretary of State for Education, a post he held until 1989. During this time he introduced the National Core Curriculum as well as training days, known to this day as "Baker Days".

Baker's communication skills were widely recognised and in 1989 he was appointed Chairman of the Conservative Party and following the election of John Major in November 1990 he was promoted again to the post of Home Secretary. Following the 1992 General Election he retired to the back benches and was appointed a member of the Order of the Companions of Honour (CH). He retired from the Commons in 1997 and was created Baron Baker of Dorking.

In 2011 Lord Baker founded the Baker Dearing Trust to promote the establishment of University Technical Colleges under the Free Schools Programme.

We are delighted that Lord Baker has accepted our invitation to speak about his remarkable life and achievements.

An Audience with Lord Baker will be held on Thursday 24 November 2016 at Hadlow Manor Hotel, Hadlow TN11 0JH commencing at 7pm. He will be interviewed on stage by Tom Tugendhat MBE MP and there will be ample time for questions from the audience.

Tickets are just £12.00 per person for the show or £30.00 per person for the show and an exclusive "After Show Wine & Canape Reception."

To reserve and pay for your tickets please visit <https://tinyurl.com/LordBaker>