



2017-0057782POAM

Rt Hon Anne Milton MP

Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills and Minister for Women
Sanctuary Buildings Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT
tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus

Neil Sheldon, Vice President
Education and Statistical Literacy
The Royal Statistical Society
12 Errol Street
London
EC1Y 8LX

Dear Mr Sheldon

18th December

Thank you very much for your letter of 27 November, addressed to the Secretary of State, about post-16 maths education. I am replying as the minister responsible for this policy area.

I was delighted to learn of the work Xaverian College is doing with other schools and colleges across England to offer a wide range of options for further study in post-16 maths. I was especially pleased to read about their commitment to encouraging students to maintain and develop their mathematical skills and knowledge for the future. Supporting more students to get the vital skills they need for further study and future careers is at the heart of the recent Budget announcement about introducing a maths premium.

As you are aware, the maths premium is an important step in the government's ongoing work to take forward the recommendations of Professor Sir Adrian Smith's review of post-16 maths. The review presented clear evidence of the benefits to students of achieving level 3 maths qualifications, but it also concluded that government, employers, schools and colleges must take greater action to address particular challenges that currently hold back participation. I am determined to make sure that more young people have the opportunity, encouragement and support to choose maths post-16.

The measures announced in the Budget are just part of a wide range of policies the government is introducing to support maths participation and attainment. We have already announced that £16 million of funding will be made available for a level 3 maths support programme designed to stimulate demand from students. In addition, this will make sure that teachers have the capacity, capability and confidence to deliver the full range of level 3 maths qualifications.

I am pleased that the information provided on 23 November was helpful, and that you are supportive of the announcement. I do however, recognise that you have questions about the detail of the announcement. We will be communicating further details in due course, including the full range of qualifications that will be eligible for the maths premium payment.

We are keen to work with you on this issue, to achieve the ambitions set out in the Smith review, and I understand that my officials have already arranged a meeting with Mr Keir to discuss this further.

Just as

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Anne'.

Rt Hon Anne Milton MP
Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills and Minister for Women