

The Rt Hon Ms Justine Greening MP
Secretary of State for Education
Department for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
20 Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT

27 November 2017

Dear Ms Greening

Post 16 mathematics education: Including A level Statistics and AS level Further Mathematics in the £600 per extra pupil initiative

Last Wednesday, Budget day, I was at a meeting of teachers of A level Statistics at Xaverian College in Manchester. The meeting had been organised by an A level Statistics teacher and the local Maths Hub to support teachers from across England in their delivery of the newly-reformed A level Statistics qualification.

I was very impressed with the teachers' commitment and enthusiasm. Many also teach Core Maths, A level Mathematics and Further Mathematics. They are keen to ensure that all their students are encouraged to maintain and develop their skills in the mathematical sciences from age 16 to 18, by offering a range of options to meet their students' abilities and future interests.

The Royal Statistical Society agrees that a range of education pathways for students from age 16 to 18 are needed to properly prepare students for their further studies and future careers.

Accordingly, we welcome the announcement of funding for schools and colleges for every extra pupil who decides to take an eligible academic level 3 mathematics qualification.

Your STEM curriculum policy team helpfully provided some further information on 23 November, and stated that the Department would be announcing further details in due course.

In that announcement, or earlier, we would welcome confirmation that the eligible level 3 mathematics qualifications include A level Statistics and AS level Further Mathematics, in addition to the three qualifications highlighted in the Budget announcement. Supporting a range of post-16 mathematical qualifications with this new initiative will enable schools and colleges to support more students to study a mathematics qualification post-16.

As I'm sure you're aware, Sir Adrian Smith's review for the Government of post-16 mathematics acknowledged that A level Statistics "is an essential part of the mix and is likely to be important in the future". The British Academy, Academy of Social Sciences, Nuffield Foundation and Nesta all acknowledge its role within a mixed economy of numerically rich post-16 qualifications. Sir Adrian's sixth recommendation both encouraged the Government to remove disincentives for post-16

mathematics provision in general, as well as deliver specific action for AS and A level Further Mathematics and Core Maths.

Thus, this financial support being available for A level Statistics and AS level Further Mathematics would be welcome and entirely in keeping with the Department's mission to encourage take-up of level 3 mathematics qualifications.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Neil Sheldon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'N' and a long, sweeping underline.

Neil Sheldon
Vice President, Education and Statistical Literacy