



2017-0039026POGibb

Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP
Minister of State for School Standards

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Mr Hetan Shah
Executive Director
Royal Statistical Society
12 Errol Street
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5 September 2017

Dear Mr Shah,

Thank you for your letter of 25 July, regarding the publication of Professor Sir Adrian Smith's review of post-16 mathematics.

Thank you for your support for Sir Adrian's review and its recommendations. Addressing the issues raised by the report is a priority for the Government, and the publication of the report is the start of a process to support greater numbers of pupils to participate and achieve in post-16 mathematics.

Teacher training and retention is an important issue, and we offer generous incentives for those training to teach priority subjects, such as mathematics. In addition, we have invested £40 million in the further education workforce since 2013. Nevertheless, we know that we have to go further to increase the number of pupils studying mathematics post-16.

I confirmed in my letter responding to Sir Adrian that the current policy on GCSE resits will stay in place in 2017-18. We will continue to monitor and review the current policy to assess whether it is having the desired effect. It should be noted that we do not require all 16 to 18 year olds without Grade 9 to 4, or equivalent, in mathematics and English GCSE to resit the qualification. While pupils with prior attainment at Grade 3 are required to enrol in GCSEs, there is no requirement to repeatedly resit. Students with prior attainment at Grade 1 or 2 can enrol in a range of stepping stone qualifications, including Functional Skills.

I note your comments regarding the funding model for schools and the future role of big data and data science. We recognise that many of the issues highlighted in the report will require detailed engagement and action between the Government and learned societies such as the Royal Statistical Society. Officials from the Department would be pleased to meet to discuss this work. Mr Dan Styles of the Department's curriculum division can be contacted by email to arrange a meeting by email at: dan.styles@education.gov.uk.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick Gibb". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "N".