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**Nick Gibb MP**  
Minister of State for School Standards

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Dr Jennie Golding  
President, The Mathematical Association  
Ms Anne Howarth  
Chair, General Council of the ATM  
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12 September 2016

Dear Dr Golding and Ms Howarth,

Thank you for your letter of 11 August, addressed to the Secretary of State, regarding the 2016-17 Year 7 catch up premium allocations. I am replying as the Minister of State for School Standards.

The Government is committed to protecting the national schools budget in real terms, and the pupil premium at its current rates, throughout the duration of this parliament. This does mean that we have had to make difficult decisions about allocating additional resources in a tight financial climate. We have sought to provide schools with certainty over their budgets in a year where there have been changes to the expected standard. As you have noted, schools will receive the same overall amount of total funding they received in 2015-16, adjusted to reflect the percentage change in the size of their Year 7 cohort.

We know that teachers are working to ensure that pupils who have not achieved the expected standard at Key Stage 2 before joining secondary schools are able to catch up. Supporting pupils to catch up should be part of a school's core function and we expect schools to be tracking pupil progress and enabling pupils to catch up as a matter of priority.

We will make an announcement about future years in due course.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

**Nick Gibb MP**