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Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP
Minister of State for School Standards

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Mr Tom Roper
President, The Mathematical Association
259 London Road
Leicester
LE2 3BE

6 September 2017

Dear Mr Roper,

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.

As you are aware, we announced £16 million of funding over two years for a new level 3 mathematics support programme. As set out in my letter to Sir Adrian, the programme will increase participation and attainment in level 3 mathematics through targeted support to those students, teachers, schools and colleges who need it the most.

The new programme will aim to improve the quality and capacity of post-16 mathematics, including through high quality professional development for teachers, inspiring more students to study mathematics post-16, and increasing the number of students, particularly girls, studying AS and A level mathematics and further mathematics. It also aims to ensure that students in all 16 to 19 state funded schools and colleges are able to study AS and A level further mathematics, and increase the number of students taking the qualification.

I am grateful for your commitment to work with other learned societies on encouraging universities to indicate the quantitative skills they require. We want to encourage universities and employers to highlight the importance of level 3 mathematics qualifications for entry to undergraduate courses with a significant quantitative element, and for a wide range of job roles. We are currently considering the full report and its recommendations carefully, and will set out our plans in due course.

I recognise that many of the issues highlighted will require detailed engagement and action between the Government and learned societies such as the Mathematical Association. 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', written in a cursive style.