



2016-0035002POGibb

Nick Gibb MP
Minister of State for School Standards

Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, SW1P 3BT
tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus

Dr Sue Pope
Honorary Secretary, MMSA
By email: suepope@atm.org.uk

24 October 2016

Dear Dr Pope,

Thank you for your letter of 19 July, addressed to the Secretary of State, on behalf of the Meeting of Mathematics Subject Associations (MMSA), regarding the proposed mathematics progress checks in Year 7. I am replying as the Minister of State for School Standards. I apologise for the delay in responding.

I appreciate the concerns that the MMSA has raised. I would like to clarify that, as the Secretary of State announced as part of her wider statement on primary assessment on 19 October, we will not be introducing statutory Year 7 mathematics and reading resits for pupils who do not reach the expected standard at the end of Year 6. We will instead focus on the steps needed to ensure that these pupils catch up in Year 7 by introducing a targeted package of support. High quality resit papers will be made available for teachers to use if they wish, as part of their ongoing assessments. The Secretary of State's announcement is available to read in full at: tinyurl.com/zft2rs4.

The National Curriculum assessment results for this year show that the new standard is ambitious, but primary schools have risen to this challenge. In previous years, too many pupils met the required standards but left primary school unable to read and write with sufficient fluency to progress effectively at secondary school and achieve at least five good GCSEs. This year's results are not comparable with previous years as the assessments, the National Curriculum, and the expected standard of pupils have changed.

I am grateful for your invitation to meet to discuss progress checks further. Unfortunately, due to heavy diary pressures, I am unable to. As you may be aware, we will be launching a consultation in the new year to set out a long term, sustainable approach to primary assessment. I would encourage you

and your colleagues to respond to this consultation, as we want to review a wide range of opinions and responses. We will publish further details about the consultation in due course.

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 initial 'N' and 'G'.

Nick Gibb MP
