



The Rt Hon Gavin Williamson, CBE MP
 Secretary of State for Education
 Department for Education
 Sanctuary Buildings
 Great Smith Street
 London SW1P 3BT

31 July 2019

Dear Secretary of State,

Congratulations on being appointed Secretary of State of Education. We trust you will find working in education as rewarding as we do.

We write representing The Mathematical Association, a professional body for all engaged in mathematical education, which has been working to improve mathematical education since 1871. We have had the pleasure of working with many of your predecessors on the reforms of curriculum and qualifications amongst other things.

We have noticed the House of Commons' Education Committee's report, dated 16 July, entitled "A ten-year plan for school and college funding", which highlights the effects of reduced per-pupil spending, and calls for a more strategic approach to education planning and funding. We welcome your commitment, as reported in The Times ("Three Fs take Williamson from nursery to college" 28th July) to put funding and further education at the heart of your education policy, and this will no doubt include following up on many of the committee's recommendations, including developing a long-term plan.

Such a plan will have many strands, and one of those will perhaps be mathematics. The teaching of mathematics has some particular issues, including the severe shortage of specialist teachers and the increase in demand for the teaching of mathematics post 16. We stand ready to support your civil servants in developing a strategic response to these challenges by drawing on our members' extraordinary range of experience teaching mathematics across all ages. Ahead of that, we would be pleased to have the opportunity to brief you or your officials on these issues, as seen by teachers of mathematics.

Yours faithfully,

Peter Ransom, MBE
 Chair of Council

Yours faithfully,

Dr J A E Simons
 Chair of Teaching Committee