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**The Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP**  
Secretary of State for Education

Sanctuary Buildings 20 Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT  
tel: 0370 000 2288 [www.education.gov.uk/contactus/dfe](http://www.education.gov.uk/contactus/dfe)

Dr Sarah Cumbers  
Chief Executive Officer, Royal Statistical Society

Dr Andrew Garrett  
President, Royal Statistical Society

By email: [m.wiley@rss.org.uk](mailto:m.wiley@rss.org.uk)

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*Dear Sarah and Andrew,*

Thank you for your letter of 7 August and for enclosing your briefings with me regarding the maths curriculum and maths teachers which I have shared with my officials.

With regard to the maths curriculum, the government has made a manifesto commitment to improve the quality of maths teaching across nurseries and primary schools, learning from the success of phonics.

As you may know, the government has established an independent Curriculum and Assessment Review, covering Key Stages 1 to 5, chaired by Professor Becky Francis CBE. The review will seek to deliver a curriculum that ensures children and young people leave education ready for life and work, building the knowledge, skills and attributes young people need to thrive.

The government's ambition is for a curriculum that delivers excellent foundations in reading, writing and maths, and ensures every young person gets the opportunity to develop creative, digital, and speaking and listening skills particularly prized by employers.

The review will start this autumn with a call for evidence. The call for evidence will set out the areas where the Review Group would particularly welcome evidence and input from the sector and stakeholders and direct the focus of the engagement with the sector over the autumn term. I would welcome your views and input.

Further information on the Aims, Terms of Reference and Working Principles of the Curriculum and Assessment Review is available at: [tinyurl.com/2P9NS74Y](https://tinyurl.com/2P9NS74Y).

With regard to teaching, we recognise that high-quality teaching is the factor that makes the biggest difference to a child's education. This is why we have committed to recruiting 6,500 new expert teachers.

We know there is further to go to get more teachers into shortage subjects, including maths. We want to ensure a pipeline of specialist teachers, and for the 2024/25 recruitment cycle we have made £196 million available as financial incentives for initial teacher training trainees, a £15 million increase on the last cycle. This includes a range of measures, including bursaries worth £28,000 tax-free and scholarships worth £30,000 tax-free, to encourage talented trainees to key subjects such as mathematics. We will continue to review how best to allocate bursaries and scholarships to ensure we are spending money where it is needed most.

Additionally, for 2023/24, mathematics, physics, chemistry and computing teachers in the first five years of their careers, who chose to work in disadvantaged schools, received retention payments worth up to £3,000 after tax.

Fair pay is key to ensuring teaching is an attractive and respected profession, which is why this government has accepted the School Teachers' Review Body's recommendation of a 5.5% pay award for teachers and leaders in maintained schools from September.

We are providing schools with almost £1.1 billion in additional funding, in the financial year 2024/25, to support schools with overall costs – this matches what we have calculated is needed to fully fund, at a national level, the teacher pay award, and the support staff pay offer in financial year 2024/25, over and above the overall available headroom in schools' existing budgets.

High-quality professional development is important for teachers at all stages of their careers to ensure they receive appropriate support and to enable them constantly to improve their practice. Decisions relating to teachers' professional development rightly rest with schools, headteachers, and teachers themselves, as they are in the best position to judge their own requirements.

Nevertheless, we are supporting teachers and leaders with continuing professional development through a suite of National Professional Qualifications, which have been designed with professionals in mind, using the latest and best available evidence, and can be completed flexibly around existing commitments.

To support schools to implement best practice and develop their teachers, we have created a network of 87 Teaching School Hubs. We have also established the National Institute of Teaching, which researches and disseminates 'what works' in teacher and leadership development.

The government has committed to introducing a Teacher Training Entitlement to ensure teachers stay up to date on best practice. More information on this policy will be made available in due course.

Thank you for writing to me on this important matter

*Best wishes,*

*Bridget*

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