

LONDON MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY

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Dear Sue

I am writing to you in my capacity as Education Secretary of the LMS and on behalf of the LMS Council to raise and discuss some issues regarding the proposed two new GCSEs in mathematics. The matter was considered by the Society's Education Committee at its last meeting.

First, we welcome the proposed names of Applying Mathematics for GCSE 1 and Mathematics for GCSE 2. These seem to us to convey the right flavour for both GCSEs and, especially, to indicate clearly that GCSE 2 is a chance for the students to learn fundamental mathematics involving both problem solving and theory.

Second, we feel strongly that all students who obtain a Level 6 mark or above at KS3 should be entitled to take GCSE2, regardless of which school they attend. Schools should be given incentives and regulated to ensure that this occurs in practice. We think that insisting on Level 6 and above is a more realistic target to aim for, than expecting 80% uptake.

Third, we welcome the fact that the schools piloting GCSE 2 are able to include the results into their results for the league tables. We would urge this to be the case for all schools following the general introduction of GCSE2 and we see this as a major incentive to encourage schools to support the introduction of this new GCSE.

We look forward to the introduction of the new GCSE and to seeing some sample papers and hope that we can work with you to make it a great success.

Yours sincerely

Professor Chris Budd
Education Secretary

cc Professor Chris Robson, LMS Education Committee
Professor Nigel Steele, IMA Honorary Secretary