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Nick Gibb MP
Minister of State for Schools

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

Mr René Koglbauer MA MBA
President, Association for Language Learning
By email: rachelm@all-languages.org.uk

7 July 2015

Dear Mr Koglbauer,

Thank you for your letter of 15 June, regarding the English Baccalaureate and languages.

I appreciate your support for reforms to introduce an academic curriculum that recognises the benefits of teaching languages in our schools. In reforming GCSEs and A levels, the Government wants to make sure that pupils are given the best chance to succeed in future education and employment. We want all young people to leave school feeling that they have worked hard and fulfilled their potential, and that their achievements have been recognised through valued qualifications.

With regard to your concerns about teacher recruitment, the Government will work together with the profession to develop detailed proposals for implementation, including making sure there are enough teachers with the right skills and knowledge to deliver it. Teaching remains a popular profession and we will continue to provide bursaries and scholarships to attract new teachers to the profession.

I understand your concerns regarding funding for resources. As you may be aware, however, decisions relating to resources are for individual schools to make. The Government will be able to confirm arrangements for school funding in 2016 and 2017 after the forthcoming spending review. The Department will also consult widely before introducing any significant reform to the funding system.

I would like to reassure you that under the previous Government the core schools budget was protected in real terms. This included protection for local authority schools block funding at 'flat cash per pupil' and the introduction of the pupil premium, which will be worth over £2.5 billion in 2015 and 2016, to provide additional funding for disadvantaged pupils. This year, an extra £390 million was added to the budgets of local authorities considered to have been unfairly funded in previous years.

The Department will be discussing the best way to implement the new academic curriculum with schools. The Government is committed to continuing to invest in schools to ensure that schools can provide high quality teaching for all pupils.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Gibb', written in a cursive style.

Nick Gibb MP