

Rt. Hon Gillian Keegan MP
Department for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT

12 October 2023

Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing to you as chair of the Science Education Policy Alliance. This is a grouping which represents the views of the Royal Society, the Association for Science Education, the Royal Society of Biology, the Royal Society of Chemistry, and the Institute of Physics, which aims to advance our shared interest in and commitment to science education in the UK.

We were very interested to hear the Prime Minister's announcement of the Advanced British Standard in his conference speech and keen to find out more. We welcome much of the detail that has since been published by your department, although – as raised in the media – a shortage of teachers in some subjects may compromise the ability for this ambitious programme to be delivered.

Collectively, and individually, our organisations have given a lot of thought to the structure and content of post-16 qualifications within wider system reform. We are pleased to see that some of our research has been cited in your document. We are particularly pleased to see recommendations for a broadening of the curriculum, the inclusion of maths and an intention to achieve parity between academic and technical routes. Many of these are ideas which we have discussed in our regular meetings with officials in your team.

The Science Education Policy Alliance will, of course, submit responses to the consultation in due course. However, given the overlap of our interests, and our experience and connections within the sciences, I would be very pleased to meet with you to discuss how we might help in ensuring the best possible outcomes from these ground-breaking and important reforms.

Yours Sincerely,



Professor Dame Athene Donald, DBE, FRS
Chair of the Science Education Policy Alliance