

The A Level Content Advisory Board

UNIVERSITIES WELCOME DELAYED INTRODUCTION OF NEW MATHEMATICS A LEVEL

The A Level Content Advisory Board (ALCAB), set up by the Russell Group of universities, today welcomed the decision to delay the introduction of new A levels in mathematics and further mathematics until 2017.

ALCAB advised Ministers to delay the new A level in order to align with the timing of the new GCSE in mathematics, and this advice was supported by Ofqual, the regulator of examinations and qualifications in England, and by the A level exam boards. The Minister of State for School Reform, Nick Gibb, has written accepting this advice.

Professor Nigel Thrift, Chair of ALCAB and Vice-Chancellor of Warwick University, said today:

"I am very pleased that the government has accepted ALCAB's advice to delay the introduction of the new A level mathematics by one year. This decision will mean that the first students taking the new A level will have progressed from the new GCSE. The qualifications are designed to align in that way. This is fair to students and schools, and should give the new A level a good start."

Professor Richard Craster, Chair of ALCAB's mathematics panel and Professor of Applied Mathematics at Imperial College London, also commented:

"I welcome the decision to have the introduction of the new A levels in mathematics and further mathematics in 2017. The new A level has substantial changes in emphasis and content. At its heart are the aims of ensuring that students can embrace fluency, reasoning and mathematical problem solving."

NOTES

1 First teaching of the new A levels in mathematics and further mathematics will be delayed until 2017 from the previously announced date of 2016.

2. Correspondence between Minister of State and Ofqual on mathematics qualifications is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-reform-minister-writes-to-ofqual-a-level-maths-reform>

3. ALCAB's final advice to the Secretary of State on A level content will be published next week.

4. A level maths: letter from Glenys Stacey to Nicky Morgan MP
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-level-maths-letter-from-glenys-stacey-to-nicky-morgan-mp>
5. For media enquiries to ALCAB, please contact Matthew Lumby on 020 7976 3536 or admin@alcab.org.uk