Dear Sally,

TEACHERS’ STANDARDS REVIEW

Thank you once again for agreeing to lead a Review of Teachers’ Standards. I am very grateful that you have agreed to take forward this work.

I am writing now to let you know that I will be announcing your appointment as Chair of the Review today. I believe you are extremely well placed to conduct this Review, given your experience in the teaching profession, and your record as an outstanding head teacher. You will have the support of a group of leading professionals, including teachers and head teachers, and other experts including an initial teacher training provider and an independent observer from Ofsted.

As you know, I set out my intention to review the existing standards for teachers in our White Paper, The Importance of Teaching, published on 24 November. The full Terms of Reference for the Review are set out in an annex to this letter. In short, you will aim to establish a set of standards that:

- are unequivocal, clear and easy to understand;
- provide a tool to assess teachers’ performance and steer professional development;
- are designed to inspire confidence in the profession;
- focus primarily on the key elements of excellent teaching (including approaches to early reading and early mathematics), how to address poor behaviour and how to support children with additional needs, including Special Educational Needs; and
- encompass standards of ethics and behaviour, both within and outside the school, including, for example, having tolerance and respect for the rights and views of others and not undermining UK democratic values.
An important part of making teaching and school leadership more attractive is that we should free teachers from unnecessary prescription and bureaucracy, and I am keen that the professional standards for teachers' performance and conduct are clear, concise and brought together in one place.

I would therefore ask you to make proposals to replace both the existing ‘Framework of Professional Standards for Teachers’ drafted by the Training and Development Agency for Schools and the General Teaching Council for England’s ‘Code of Conduct and Practice for Registered Teachers’. You should also consider how the standards align with Ofsted’s school inspection criteria, and I would ask you to take into account good practice internationally. Finally, as you conduct the Review, I will of course expect you to be mindful of the current financial constraints.

I look forward to receiving an interim report in July setting out your recommendations for Qualified Teacher Status and Core standards, which form the base upon which teachers build their professional careers, and a final report in the autumn term, outlining your recommendations for the full suite of teacher standards.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the libraries of the Houses of Parliament.

and I am so grateful to you for this...