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Dear Joanna

Subject: Level 3 Certificate in Quantitative Reasoning (MEI) and Level 3 Certificate in Quantitative Problem Solving (MEI)

I read your "OCR's Vision for Core Maths" paper with interest as I had previously met with Terry at Forgemasters to discuss the need for such qualifications/development opportunities. It is our experience that most apprentices we recruit who progress on to relevant FE/HE programmes struggle with the maths content. It is clear from the outset that most apprentices leaving school, even though they may have successfully achieved GCSE Maths Grade A-C, are far too reliant on electronic calculation and lack the ability to quickly determine through mental calculation that an error has been made. In addition they find it difficult to apply the maths they have learnt to the myriad of real workplace situations at our company where such mathematical applications are critical.

It is probably also worth pointing out that we have hosted a number of work experience pupils in recent years whose standard of mathematics has been appalling (unable to do basic addition and subtraction) and many applicants that we screen for our apprentice posts are equally poor in this area.

I fully support the recommendations in this paper and the abovementioned qualifications which are clearly designed to address the problems I have outlined in this letter.

Yours sincerely

Rick Franckeiss
Group Training Officer