



www.furthermaths.org.uk/wales



Case Study	Gowerton	
Address	Cecil Road, Gorseinon, Swansea SA4 3DL	
University	Durham University	

Case Study: Transition to University

Student – Leah Clarke

Background

Leah Clarke studied AS Level Further Maths through the Further Maths Support Programme. Her tuition was conducted face to face at her school where she met her tutor once a fortnight.

FMSP Wales caught up with Leah in January 2017

FMSP Wales: So what happened after you passed your Further Maths Exams?

I'm in the 4th year of an integrated Masters in Computer Science. Working really hard. Someone once told me 'a good degree is a hard degree', so I've kept that in mind. I really liked computing. I've tried to do placements every year. In the first year I spent the summer with Blackberry as a tester. In the second year I went to Google as a software engineer and last summer I went to American Express as a software engineer. They have offered me a job. I haven't taken it but I probably will.

What did you study and where?

I started with Maths, Chemistry, Physics and History. I was going to apply to Oxford at the time. I didn't know about Further Maths. My Maths teacher told me about it. I thought - extra maths? I'll do that! So I swapped physics to Further Maths in the first month. I did an AS over two years. I did three A levels and an AS over 2 years.

Do you think that studying Further Maths through FMSP Wales has helped your transition to University?

Further Maths helped me so much in the first year. FP1 with all the matrices has really helped in Computer Science.

Are there any ways in which you feel Further Maths specifically helped?

I don't think we used much standard A level maths in the first year, but the FP1 stuff on matrices we did. We did loads of that and proof by induction. I can't remember doing that in regular maths either. I did it in Further Maths. That extra stuff was really, really helpful. People who hadn't done Further Maths in the first year really struggled. It's great for engineering too – my roommate is an engineer and found it really helpful. I started out thinking physics would be good for me but actually Further Maths was much more helpful for my course degree.

Would you recommend Further Maths and why?

I would tell everyone to do the same subjects as me. I can't believe how well it has worked out for me. I would advise Further Maths. I liked the way the course was structured. It was not like school lessons. The tutor came to school every fortnight for an hour and a half. She would go through things then leave us stuff to do alone. This is a lot more like university study. I found that aspect really helpful.