

NEWS RELEASE TO SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

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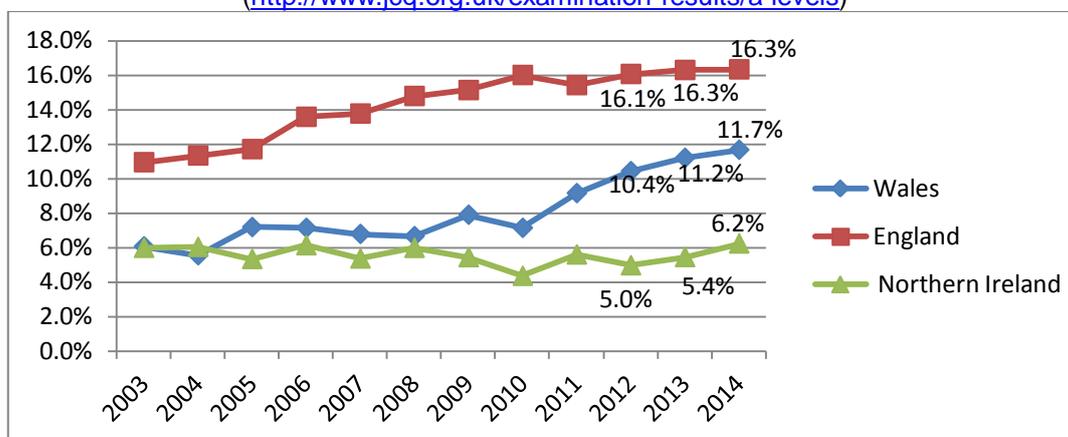
Further increase in numbers taking the Further Maths A-level in Wales

This year's Further Mathematics A-level results are again a cause for celebration in Wales. Both Mathematics and Further Mathematics results have built upon last year's increased entry with further rises:

- A level Further Mathematics numbers are up from 416 to 435, a 4.6% increase.
- AS Further Mathematics numbers are up from 369 to 411, an 11.4% increase.
- A level Mathematics numbers are up from 3713 to 3727, a 0.4% increase.
- AS Mathematics numbers are up from 4796 to 5087, a 6.1% increase.

The proportion of Mathematics students who sat Further Mathematics A-level reached 11.7%, which is the highest result ever in Further Mathematics in Wales. Since the Further Mathematics Support Programme was launched in Wales in 2010 the percentage has risen steadily every year, see the graph below.

Graph 1. Percentages of A-level Mathematics students taking A-level Further Mathematics in England, Northern Ireland and Wales since 2003
(<http://www.icq.org.uk/examination-results/a-levels>)



Further Mathematics qualifications allow students to enrich their mathematics experience and build a more solid foundation for pursuing careers in science, technology, economics, actuarial science and finance. The qualification is highly regarded by the Russell Group of Universities which was highlighted in their guide to post-16 subject choices <http://russellgroup.org/InformedChoices-latest.pdf>

FMSP students are continuing to achieve excellent examination results, of the 3 students tutored from Ysgol Brynhyfryd, Denbighshire, 2 received A* and 1 A. Of the 4 students tutored in Ysgol David Hughes 3 of the students achieved A* in Further Maths and an A* in

Maths. The 1 student tutored by FMSP Wales from Bro Gwaun achieved an A* in Further Maths and an A* in Maths.

Anna Clancey who achieved an A* overall in Maths and an A in Further Maths with the FMSP Wales in 2013/14 said: *“Further Maths has made me realise how much I enjoy Maths and I now know that doing a Maths degree next year was the right choice to make. Without Further Maths it is very unlikely that I would have received an offer from Cambridge University.”*

The pilot Further Maths Support Programme (FMSP) Wales supports state-funded schools and colleges in the pilot area by providing tuition for students who would benefit from studying AS/A level Further Mathematics. When schools/colleges have difficulties staffing/timetabling Further Mathematics, the FMSP Wales can provide all or part of the tuition for Further Mathematics. The other key element of the Programme is a variety of revision and study events held face-to-face and online for both students tutored by the FMSP Wales and studying Further Mathematics in their sixth-form.

The Programme initially received funding from the Welsh Government for 3 years from 2010-2013 to cover the pilot area of Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire, Neath Port Talbot and Swansea. Further funding was made available in 2013/14 to include Anglesey, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Conwy and Gwynedd. Following the interim evaluation report (<http://wales.gov.uk/newsroom/educationandskills/2013/8356143/?lang=en>) published in December 2013 further funding has been confirmed for two years till March 2016.

The Welsh Minister for education and Skills Huw Lewis in his supportive statement issued for a student conference held by the FMSP Wales in July 2014 said: *“I am supporting the continuation and expansion of the Further Mathematics Support Programme, managed by the Wales Institute of Mathematical and Computational Sciences, as part of my high level commitment to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects. The work that is being done to encourage and enable learners to take up Further Maths qualifications is commendable as it provides young people with the key to gain entry to Higher Education and careers in STEM.”*

From September 2014 the Further Maths Support Programme Wales will be offering a pilot Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Programme in Further Mathematics to teachers from state-funded schools and colleges in South Wales. Project Coordinator Sofya Lyakhova said: *“Up-skilling teachers is crucial for ensuring the provision of Further Maths is sustainable in Wales. We have been looking to offering CPD in Wales for some time and are delighted that the extended funding gives us an opportunity to offer a course in South Wales.”* As the CPD survey results (<http://www.furthermaths.org.uk/docs/CPD%20Survey%20Report.2014.pdf>) suggest there is a strong interest for CPD in Further Maths in Wales. At least 22% of all state-funded sixth form centres replied and 84% of all respondents would be interested in receiving CPD in Further Pure, Mechanics or Statistics in next 12 months.” The need for a CPD programme was also highlighted in the interim evaluation report.

The FMSP Wales
Is managed by
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All state-funded secondary schools and colleges in Wales are invited to register with the Programme <http://www.furthermaths.org.uk/Eregister.php> and express their interest in tuition assistance by contacting the Programme Coordinator Sofya Lyakhova on 01792 602793.

Notes for Editors

1. The FMSP Wales is managed by The Wales Institute of Mathematical and Computational Sciences (WIMCS) and is in partnership with Mathematics in Education and Industry (MEI, www.mei.org.uk). It is funded by the Welsh Government.
2. More information regarding the Further Maths support programme Wales can be found at: <http://www.furthermaths.org.uk/centre/?centre=wales>
3. The Wales Institute of Mathematical and Computational Sciences (WIMCS) is a collaborative partnership of the universities of Aberystwyth, Bangor, Cardiff, South Wales and Swansea. It has been set up by the Welsh Government through the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales. WIMCS aims to enhance the standing of mathematics and computation in Wales, to foster links with industry, commerce and business, to generate substantial research funding and to provide a forum for education and public awareness of the Mathematical Sciences (www.wimcs.ac.uk).
4. For more information please contact the FMSP Wales Administrator on 01792 606609 or by email adminwales@furthermaths.org.uk