

NEWS RELEASE TO SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

August 2013

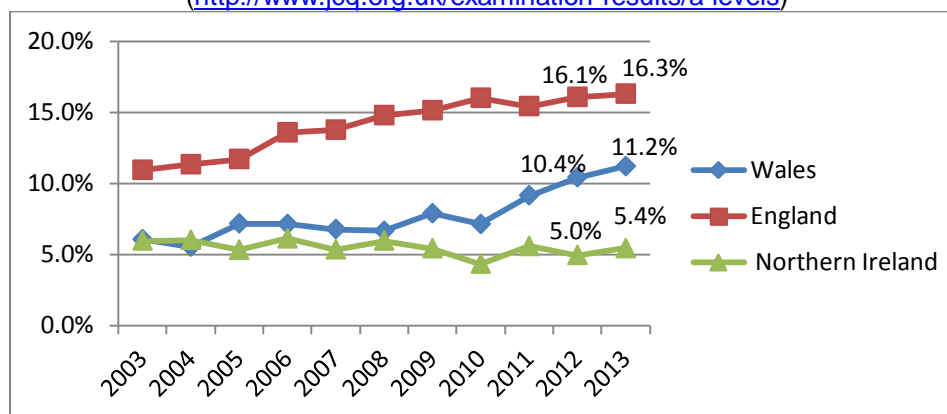
Further increase in numbers taking the Further Maths A-level in Wales

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 380 to 416, a 9.4% increase.
- AS Further Mathematics numbers are up from 339 to 369, a 8.8% increase.
- A level Mathematics numbers are up from 3643 to 3713, a 1.9% increase.
- AS Mathematics numbers are up from 4647 to 4796, a 5.4% increase.

The proportion of Mathematics students who sat Further Mathematics A-level reached 11.2%, 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. The number of students studying Further Mathematics in Wales has increased by more than 70%.

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



Studying Further Mathematics allows students who have mathematical talent to build a more solid foundation, helping them to achieve their potential in their later education, and often leading to careers in science, technology, economics, actuarial science and finance. The Russell Group of Universities highlighted the importance of the Further Mathematics AS/A level for many university courses in their guide to post-16 subject choices <http://russellgroup.org/InformedChoices-latest.pdf>

The pilot Further Maths Support Programme (FMSP) Wales started in October 2010 and covered Carmarthenshire, Neath Port Talbot, Swansea and Pembrokeshire. From April 2013 Rhondda Cynon Taff, Anglesey and other parts of North Wales are included in the project.

The Programme offers tuition and access to online resources to support the teaching of Further Mathematics. One of the key elements of the Programme is a variety of revision and study events held face-to-face and online. 97% of students attended Further Pure and Applied face-to-face Revision sessions in 2012/13 would recommend it to other students. Students' comments include: "Great help to all students", "Enjoyable atmosphere", "...very useful for revision and even learning new things", "Excellent preparation".

The Programme is supported by Science Technology Engineering and Maths (STEM) departments in Welsh and English Universities

<http://www.furthermaths.org.uk/universities.php>.

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