

## **NEWS RELEASE TO SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES**

### **More pupils to benefit as Maths Programme extended with Welsh Government funding**

More pupils and students in Wales are to get support with Maths as the Further Maths Support Programme Wales has received funding from the Welsh Government to extend the project in the 2013/2014 academic year.

The pilot Further Maths Support Programme Wales started in October 2010 and covered Carmarthenshire, Neath Port Talbot, Swansea and Pembrokeshire but the increased funding will mean that Rhondda Cynon Taff and Anglesey and other parts of North Wales will be included in the project.

Project co-ordinator Sofya Lyakhova said: *"Further Mathematics opens up to students a far wider range of opportunities for further study in STEM subjects and its added value is recognised by Higher Education Institutions across the UK. We look forward to an exciting year, helping more students in Wales to study Further Mathematics and giving them an exciting learning experience."*

The aim of the FMSP Wales is to:

- Raise an awareness of the value of studying Mathematics at higher levels;
- Increase the number of students in Wales studying AS/A level Mathematics and Further Mathematics;
- Increase the number of schools and colleges in Wales offering Further Mathematics;
- Increase the number of students from Wales applying to study higher education courses in Mathematics and related subjects such as Engineering, Physics, IT, Finance and Economics;
- Improve the transition of students from further to higher education courses in Mathematics or courses which have a significant element of Mathematics thus benefiting the wider economy.

The Programme has received very positive feedback from students and teachers and is supported by Science Technology Engineering and Maths (STEM) departments in Welsh Universities. Comments include:

Online Student Joseph James McCambridge said: *"I decided to take Further Maths, as I am very interested in mathematics and so wanted to further my*

*knowledge by taking the course. I took the course with the Further Mathematics Support Programme, as further pure mathematics 2 was not an option for me to take in my school. I really enjoyed the course as I find Maths a very interesting subject and was very glad that I was able to learn more complicated Mathematics from this course. I would highly recommend this course to anyone who is thinking of taking maths at University."*

Secondary School Head of Maths Angharad Parsons said: *"I have found the FMSP to be extremely useful, primarily in giving pupils an opportunity to gain a qualification that we were unable to provide for, and also in providing extremely useful revision classes for all of the sixth form to use. I have had regular communication with them about students' progress and the pupils themselves have had a very positive experience."*

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 Area 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](http://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, Glamorgan 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](http://www.wimcs.ac.uk)).
4. For more information please contact the FMSP Wales Administrator on 01792 606609 or by email [adminwales@furthermaths.org.uk](mailto:adminwales@furthermaths.org.uk)