



www.furthermaths.org.uk/wales



Case Study	Sir Thomas Picton School
Address	Queensway Haverfordwest Pembrokeshire West Wales SA61 2NX
Number of students aged 16 – 18 2013/14	



Case Study:

Student – Arkady Wey

Further Maths Delivery:

I chose to study Further Maths as I wanted to study Maths in a top 5 University in the UK, and I was therefore highly unlikely to receive an offer without the qualification. Additionally, it seemed odd not to pursue the subject in A levels given that I wanted to study it further. My advice when opting to study Further Maths is to check whether the subject is required in your University offer, and to bear in mind that if you do not have a good grasp of A level Maths, Further A Level Maths will be very challenging. However, there is no subject which looks better if you are pursuing a subject which requires mathematical ability.

Also consider the provisions in your school for the subject. In my school there was no provision for the subject. However, some of the teachers kindly gave up their lunchtimes to introduce us to new concepts so that we were more comfortable with them by the time we attended FMSP sessions in Swansea. I found that the best way to use the FMSP lessons was as revision sessions. I studied the topics at home until there were clear areas that I didn't understand. Therefore, when I attended the sessions, I could ask a set of questions which enabled me to fully understand the subject. I would not advise that you attend the sessions with no prior knowledge of the topics as you may quickly become lost. However, the tutors who teach at FMSP are always happy to help, and there are University students which also help in the sessions, which is useful!

I found out about the program through my teachers in school, who have strong links with the tutors at FMSP. Originally, I was taught through the on-line sessions. However, I did not always find these beneficial as they were more difficult to follow and it was much more difficult to ask questions on-line than it was face to face, because it was often hard to

describe exactly what my question was. Later, I was given tutorials face to face, which were a lot more beneficial. However, the qualification still requires a massive time commitment. Further Maths is a natural continuation of the Maths A Level, and therefore it is best that you have studied C4 before you study FP1. This was not possible in my school, and as a result making the transition to FP1 was very difficult. However, by the time I had learned FP1 in year 12, c4 in year 13 already seemed easy. That is perhaps the greatest benefit of Further Maths, it really does make you very comfortable with A Level Maths, I achieved an average mark of 97% overall!

Benefits of Studying Further Mathematics?

I would recommend the qualification to anyone who enjoys a challenge, and is mathematically minded. Additionally, if you are required to achieve a certain grade in Further Maths, I would recommend the FMSP program. I required an A* in Maths and Further Maths, which is an average mark of 90% in c3 and c4 and three of the Further Maths units. With the help of the FMSP in Swansea, I exceeded this offer and managed to enjoy the Maths while I did it!